

World Reformation Activities of the Dark God — Loving Humans So Much, I Reincarnated in One —

Arc 8: Fire God Hero

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Interlude

Chapter 249: Evil Light

In reality, I already knew it.

The identity of my sister the former light hero, Ates.

I -Yorishiro-already knew it.

In the battle that day, Ates, who had been overwhelmed by the portion of God power from Karen-san, had no choice but to escape, and as she escaped, she told me this.

She purposely told me to this to reveal her own identity.

(Yorishiro...to think you were secretly developing such a trump card, as expected of my other half!) (Ates)

“?!”

That transmission that came from the soul was exactly like mine.

This soul transmission is something that only the people who have the souls of Gods can do.

(Ates? Is that you?) (Yorishiro)

(That’s right. Today, I will give the victory to that heroic Karen-san of yours. I will be leaving. Now that I have completed my original objective that was the shadow spear Abel, getting greedy for more would simply serve to pull my leg after all.) (Ates)

Ates, really, just what in the world are you?!

(I wanted to steal your position as Founder and try standing in a position of ruling humans though.) (Ates)

(What would you have done if you had accomplished that!) (Yorishiro)

At first, I thought of Ates-san as simply a person hungry for political power. That her only objective was to obtain political power. However, now that she

has shown such special power, I can't stay in the same way of thinking anymore.

She is clearly aiming for something after obtaining that political power.

(It is a simple thing. Having political power, I can control the humans and rot them from the inside. I can set it up so that they would hate and betray each other. If Haine-san were to see such a sight, he would also get disappointed in the humans.) (Ates)

(What purpose would that serve?!) (Yorishiro)

(Yorishiro, you hated humans.) (Ates)

At that moment, I felt as if my heart had been grabbed ahold.

(Your beloved person loved humans more than you. With just that one point, they were already unforgivable, and yet, you joined the enemy side and fought against your loved one. That reason was also the humans.) (Ates)

Is she talking about the battle of Gods that occurred 1,600 years ago?

Just who in the world are you?

(Humans are the insects that separated us from our loved one. In reality, not even a single one of them should be left alive. But if you were to kill all the humans, that person would not forgive

us

this time for sure. What a dilemma. To think that a God would have to suffer such pain!!) (Ates)

Even though she is not me, she was talking as if speaking about my deepest feelings.

...No, that's not true.

I don't hate humans!

(It might have been at first, but in order to be together in heart and mind with that person, I became the human Izanami and created the ancient civilization called the Dark Underworld Country, and in that place, I learned about the greatness of humans!) (Yorishiro)

(That in itself was simply a way to deceive yourself. It was a self-induction in order to restrain the evil that was hiding inside of you. But the hatred of a God is not something so soft that it can be held back. In time, the hatred obtained its own will, and decided on moving for its own sake.) (Ates)

(What?!)(Yorishiro)

(If the humans are gone...if the humans are eradicated, that person wouldn't need to look aside and will simply have eyes for me. It is fine for him and I to be the only ones in the world. Only darkness and light are needed.) (Ates)

(Wait! What are you saying?! Just who in the world...!)(Yorishiro)

(You should already know by now, Light Goddess Inflation. I am the Light Goddess, Inflation.) (Ates)

My sister that holds the same blood as me called the name of my soul...while revealing the name of her own soul.

(The soul of a God is special. It is bigger than any and far-reaching like no other. There's no limits. Thus, if it is necessary, it can also be split in two. You yourself were probably not aware, but while you deeply hated humans, that hatred might end up being the reason your most beloved one would hate you. Suffering from those opposing elements, you created a second you. In order to push all that hatred into that other self of yours...) (Ates)

(I...am you?)(Yorishiro)

(That's right, you are me!)(Ates)

My sister Ates was the same as me, an incarnation of the Light Goddess Inflation.

The other Light Goddess that was divided along with my hatred towards humans.

(It looks like you didn't notice your other self, but I was always observing you, you know. When you released the seal of the Dark God Entropy, I knew that you would be acting aggressively now, so I stole the march and incarnated as a human first.) (Ates)

And that's the human Sunnysol Ates?!

(The collection of all the things I did for a long time in order to eliminate the humans and the lowly four Base Element Gods will soon reach completion. Everything will be destroyed. So that my beloved Entropy only sees me; so that he only loves me!!) (Ates)

I felt like vomiting.

The foul things that Ates was spouting out were certainly the ugly emotions that I had in the past.

In the middle of the battle 1,600 years ago, those were the very feelings that were stirring inside me after all.

That anger, that suffering; with the time I passed my life as the human Izanami in the Underworld Country together with the humans, it slowly went away. I thought those emotions had been completely gone.

But that wasn't it.

The evil that was inside me had been separated from me and was moving as a completely independent existence!

(I will honestly admit that I lost to your plans. Please think of me revealing my identity as the reward for winning today. The one winning in the end has already been decided that it will be me anyways.) (Ates)

(What do you mean by that?!) (Yorishiro)

(The shadow spear Abel; with the completion of this, all the pieces of the puzzle have been gathered. Now all that's left is to orderly piece them together. And then, it will be completed. The white shining God of Destruction that I myself created...) (Ates)

White shining...God of Destruction?

(The Light Demon Lord, Lucifer.) (Ates)

Ates laughs 'Ahahahahahaha!!' as if gone insane, and the soul shakes along with those laughs.

(The whole world will be brought to an end by Lucifer! Humans, Gods, and monsters; everything! It is fine for the world to only have the Dark God Entropy and the Light Goddess Inflation!!) (Ates)

Ates once again laughs.

(Of course, the last remaining Inflation will not be you. Even if we are the same existence, the one being loved by the Dark God—by Haine-san, will be me. You will also be a pitiful existence that will be eradicated by Lucifer. I wanted you to know before you disappeared. That's why, today is the greeting for that.) (Ates)

(Don't get conceited! There's no way Haine-san would love a person like you that wants to eradicate humans!!) (Yorishiro)

(Won't know until I try. In order to be loved the most by Haine-san, there's the need to eradicate the humans anyways. You didn't have the courage to put that in motion. But I do!) (Ates)

Scary.

The identity of Ates-san had finally been made clear, and I truly felt fear from my heart.

What she is trying to make reality is the thought that I had once considered. And that's obviously because she is me.

The evil that had welled up inside of me in the past and disappeared; she is the very incarnation of it.

(This sets the end of my declaration of war. Well then Yorishiro, do your best in dealing with the Demon Lords.) (Ates)

Ates had disappeared inside the shadows after escaping from the attack of Karen-san, and I couldn't chase after her.

At the same time as this happened, Karen-san had lost strength and consciousness, and I supported her from the back.

Just like she said, I don't have courage.

I am thoroughly cowardly and underhanded.

I am so cowardly that I couldn't even tell Haine-san about the true identity of Ates to Haine-san even when I had learned about it after all.

It was embarrassing and scary to have Haine-san know that I had such an ugly

part inside of me in the past.

Arc 8: Fire God Hero

Chapter 250: Is it a leaf or a legume?

At that day, a guest came to Apollon City; the Wind Founder, Toreido Shiva.

He wanted a secret meeting with the Founders and was currently inside the Grand Church together with the Light Founder Yorishiro —and for some reason, I -Kuromiya Haine-was also together with them.

In other words, this is...

“A God conference again huh.” (Shiva)

Shiva sits on the seat that was prepared and says this.

The people here are humans, but our souls aren’t.

Wind God Quasar as Shiva; Yorishiro as Light Goddess Inflation; and me as the Dark God Entropy.

The three Gods of Creation that had incarnated into humans.

Because of this, a meeting to decide the direction of the world will be taking place now.

“Is Nova not coming?” (Shiva)

Shiva asks about the remaining incarnator Nova that isn’t here.

“That guy is currently a cow, you know. He is not in a position that allows him to move freely.” (Haine)

“Even if he could, do you think he would wish to come here? That muscle-brain Fire God that only thinks about himself.” (Yorishiro)

With what Yorishiro and I pointed out, Shiva goes ‘that’s true’ and easily accepts it.

That’s why this conference that has the fate of the world involved in it will be

starting with only us three.

“...But before that...” (Shiva)

Shiva says with an irritated tone.

“What is this?” (Shiva)

What does he mean by ‘what is this’?

I follow the gaze of Shiva and look down the table.

There’s several things decorating the top of the table, but is he saying there’s something weird within those things? I don’t think there’s anything specially weird there though.

The most there is is tea and snacks to accompany it.

“Why tea?” (Shiva)

Huh?

“In this kind of talks, coffee is the template, isn’t it?! And yet, why tea?! I didn’t come here for a tea party, you know!” (Shiva)

Uwa...What’s with this anger?

While Shiva-san was imploding from a taste of him that we didn’t understand that well, Yorishiro-san answered in a low tone.

“...Tea is the drink of the noble ones.” (Yorishiro)

Oi.

“It is truly the drink that is worthy of being poured in this day’s meeting. Coffee, that’s a common place beverage whose only trait is being bitter, would only serve to obstruct the necessary thoughts in this talk.” (Yorishiro)

“That’s why childish women... It is exactly the bitterness of the coffee that brushes away that unnecessary noise in the brain. Tea is just rotten leaves. Having Coacervate being the rotten one is plenty enough!” (Shiva)

“Putting that decaying thing on the same level as tea is an insult!! What’s with you! People that drink that pitch-black liquid without milk and sugar only do that because they think they look cool!” (Yorishiro)

“This damn woman went and said it! You drink tea only because you think that it is a luxury!! Or more like, what era are you even in?! In this era, it is already being mass-produced, and tea is now the one that’s the common place drink, you idiot!” (Shiva)

“Who are you calling idiot, you deaf protagonist! Tea is not only important because it is a luxury! The complexity when making tea and the pouring, all those small things that make the taste change each time, that difficulty in use, by perfecting the correct way to make and pour that tea, that’s when the true refiness of tea can be exerted, and that’s what makes it noble! Don’t compare it to coffee that’s simply bitter!!” (Yorishiro)

“What did you say?! How can you talk about noble when you don’t even understand the thick depth in the clash between bitterness and sourness in coffee?! If we talk about the complexity of the making, there’s roasting, blend, mixing, and pouring. Coffee has a lot more process! Tea simply needs to put those leaves inside a small teapot and pour warm water inside!!” (Shiva)

“That’s not true! In order to perfectly bring out the taste inside the tea leaves, there’s a technique passed down that would surprise anyone. Steaming, filtering, keeping the uniformity of the concentration; to do all these, you need the technique of an expert!” (Yorishiro)

“Even though it is just second-grade drink made of rotten leaves that people had no choice but to drink!” (Shiva)

“That’s just a common saying! Looks like you finally showed the shallowness of your knowledge!!” (Yorishiro)

‘Uwaaaaaa...’ is the groan I let out inside of my head.

These people are having a heated debate about something that’s not related at all with the main topic of the meeting.

Why do these two hate each other so much?

Right, I remember now.

Gods don’t get along with each other. The ones who incarnated as humans were normally peaceful, so I thought it would be okay, but that wasn’t the case.

The Gods don't get along well!

"Haine-san!!" (Yorishiro)

"Haine!!" (Shiva)

Uwaaa...

These Gods are now pointing their spears at me!!

"What do you think, Haine-san?! You also think that tea tastes a lot better than coffee, right?" (Yorishiro)

"Ha, you mistook the ally to rely on, Light Goddess. My comrade Haine is on the coffee side. He even has an espresso machine in his apartment. He won't be taking the side of a woman like you!" (Shiva)

I drink both coffee and tea though...

In the times when Karen-san and the others hold tea parties in the Light Grand Church, I would drink tea all the time without any resistance after all.

Not only that, I can drink green tea and barley tea.

No, before that, isn't it weird in itself to be limiting yourself to only one drink?

"Comrade Haine! Go ahead and tell that fairy-tale woman there! That coffee is the drink that us adult hard-boiled men drink!!" (Shiva)

"That's not true, right Haine-san?! Haine-san understands the fluffy and gentle sensation after drinking tea, right? You understand how nice it is when we enjoy a tea with Karen-san and the others after a day of work, right?!" (Yorishiro)

Why am I being faced with an ultimatum in such a place?!

No matter which I choose, it is settled that it would roughen the place.

If I were to take sides, it is obvious that I would be making the other side an enemy.

What should I do?!

"Go ahead!"

""Go ahead!!""

“Alcohol! Alcoholic drinks are the ones that taste the best!” (Haine)

I throw in an even more troublesome topic.

I decided on covering myself in the smokes by throwing oil into it.

The two idiots used this as a trigger to begin an argument about another pointless topic; this time, ‘which one is better, wine or whisky?’.

Chapter 251: The trump card against the Demons

After that pointless talk, the main topic finally began.

...Or more like, can't we even have a normal conversation without doing such pointless things in the beginning?

"...God Hero huh." (Shiva)

Shiva, who had already regained his calmness as the Wind Founder and Wind God, begins to ponder.

Looking at him in this way, I always think this. Why can't they get serious from the beginning?!

"You thought of quite the aggressive move, Yorishiro. No, in this setting, maybe it would be better to call you Light Goddess Inflation." (Shiva)

A God Hero is the power-up method that the Light Founder and incarnator Yorishiro had planned.

By giving a part of the God soul to Karen-san and the heroes who are at the front of battle, they can show divine power that surpasses that of humans.

To the point that they can fight on even grounds against the Demon Lords.

Truly a trump card for victory.

"...A few days ago, knowing that it was not a good move, I still activated the God Hero form with Karen-san and I. The Light God Hero. The result could be said to have been great. If it's that power, it isn't impossible for the humans to defeat the Demon Lords." (Yorishiro)

Ignoring the full confidence of Yorishiro, Shiva pointed this out.

"I heard that that opponent was the previous light hero." (Shiva)

Being pointed out this, the fluent words of Yorishiro stop.

"So you were forced to use the trump card that is supposed to be used to defeat the Demon Lords...against a human. To think that you would get cornered to such extent. If I remember correctly, your previous light hero was..."

Ates, right? Moreover, even when you used that power, you still weren't able to finish her and she ended up escaping." (Shiva)

"Regarding the whereabouts of Ates, we are putting all our effort in the search. No matter the case, it is better to think of her as a threat on the level of Demon Lords. The fact that we don't know what she might pull makes her even more eerie than the Demon Lords." (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro honestly admitted that Ates is a fearsome existence.

We will have to rely on Shiva as an ally from now on.

Yorishiro understands that uselessly playing tough will only make trust decrease.

"Today's topic is the God Heroes." (Haine)

Without any choice, I decide on bringing out a lifeboat.

"It is true that Ates' existence is unpleasant, but the direct threat to humanity is the Demon Lords. And the method to defeat the Demon Lords will be the God Heroes." (Haine)

Just a few days ago, Karen-san and Yorishiro joined hearts to create the Light God Hero, but...Michael, Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael; in order to defeat these four Demon Lords, just the Light God Hero Karen-san would not be enough at all.

"Everyone is necessary. The Earth, Water, Fire, Wind, and Light God Heroes." (Haine)

Mirack, Celestis, Sasae-chan, and Hyue; by having those girls become God Heroes, we will have the ability to fight against the Demon Lords.

"...I see. The reason why you called me here not only as the Wind Founder but as the Wind God Quasar as well was because of this huh." (Shiva)

As expected of Shiva, he understands fast.

"In other words, if I were to join hearts with Hyue and give her part of my God soul, Hyue can become a Wind God Hero. By doing this, it would be possible for her to defeat Raphael." (Shiva)

"That's how it is." (Haine)

But that method won't work unless the Wind God Quasar himself consents though.

"I have a few questions." (Shiva)

He is the man that manages the Wind Church as the top. Obviously he wouldn't be nodding or shaking his head easily.

"We give a part of us to the heroes, but...you said it was the ability to change the prayer energy into power, right? Are you seriously saying that? Or more like, are you sane?" (Shiva)

It couldn't be helped that Shiva would be showing disapproval to that.

The prayer energy is, in a sense, the source of the chaos in this world.

The prayers that come from the humans to the Gods are strong and dense emotional energy. By taking in this, they become stronger than before and would increase their ego.

I was sealed at that time, so I wasn't involved in anything of that though.

But by basking in the prayer energy for long, the Gods changed and in return became existences that can't keep existing without being supplied continuously by prayer energy.

On the other hand, due to the advance in human civilization, the need for Gods decreased, and with it, the prayers grew less.

The four Base Element Gods that received the biggest hit because of the decrease in prayers had weakened to a point that you wouldn't be able to see a shadow of their peak era.

Shiva in front of us is also one of those four Base Element Gods.

"The power of prayers is overwhelming. It is true that if they could absorb that power, the heroes would be able to increase their strength to a hundred times what it is. It apparently not only makes it possible to absorb the prayers directed at the God, but also the prayers that are directed at the hero herself?" (Shiva)

"The popularity and the trust they have for them would be a more appropriate way to put it. It wouldn't be a stretch to say that the popularity of

Karen-san and the others is the highest than any hero has achieved before. That's why becoming a God Hero would be effective." (Yorishiro)

"..."

Shiva didn't say anything.

There's no other who would understand as much the fearsomeness of the prayer power.

Prayers are a drug for the Gods. First it will provide heaven, and then, it will drag you to hell.

I only know its fearsomeness from theory, but Shiva is experiencing it himself.

"The corrosion that the prayer power brings about is made in a way so that the Gods are the ones that will be taking the brunt. We won't be making Karen-san and Hyue-san suffer a burden that can't be taken back." (Yorishiro)

If we put it in another way, it would mean that all the bad things would be shouldered by the God, so you can't simply say 'yes' with a half-baked resolve.

I may be repeating myself here but, Shiva understands the harshness of it with his own body.

"...I will ask one more question. Aren't we Gods going to resolve the matter of the Demon Lords ourselves?" (Shiva)

"That's..." (Yorishiro)

"I will talk about that." (Haine)

It is true that I as the Dark God would be able to defeat the Demon Lords by myself.

Even if they were to come at me all four at the same time, I have the confidence that I would win 10 times out of 10.

"But this danger is one that has fallen onto the humans themselves. I think that the humans have to resolve their own problems." (Haine)

"..."

"If they didn't do that and were simply saved by the Gods, the humans would lose their own ability to save themselves. Wouldn't that be the worst tragedy to

humans?” (Haine)

It is exactly because humans overcome their own difficulties that they have advanced this much.

From now on, humans will be putting their very existence at stake to fight against monsters. And the position of the highest will only be allowed to be theirs once they have won it themselves.

I wouldn't like it if humans were to become beings that feel that being saved is a given and are unable to stand up on their own feet.

“Of course, I am right now the human, Kuromiya Haine. When the time comes, I will also be fighting as another human being. But—!” (Haine)

“No need to say more. You want to bet everything on the possibility of humans, right?” (Shiva)

Shiva raised his hand and stopped me.

And then, he said what I wanted to say.

“On top of that, the Demon Lords are sly. As long as they think that they can't win, they won't be facing Haine-san head on. They would instead run around and destroy the settlements that had become short handed and make it a guerrilla warfare.” (Yorishiro)

The opinion of Yorishiro is sound.

If that happens, it would be muddy. Even if the Demon Lords were to be defeated after, more than half of the human population will be gone and the civilization will regress heavily.

“As expected, there's the need for more fighting force. At the very least, a number that equals that of the Demon Lords; a fighting force that rivals that of Demon Lords.” (Yorishiro)

“For that sake, God Heroes are...” (Shiva)

Shiva says this as if he had decided.

Or maybe he had already decided from the very beginning.

“Understood. I will also aim to have Hyue become a God Hero.” (Shiva)

Consent.

“This body is already on the point of crumbling and it is unable to fight anymore. If I can still be of use to humans, the most I would be able to do would be to share the burden with Hyue.” (Shiva)

After 1,600 years, the Wind God had completely come to the side of loving humans and his heart grew strong as well.

“In order to obtain power that surpasses the Dark God, the Wind nation grew along with me. Like hell I would let monsters destroy us now. We will be walking further ahead together from now and in the future.” (Shiva)

With this, one more God Hero will be born.

But the problem comes from now on.

Because there's no possibility for any other God Hero to be born.

Chapter 252: No clue

“...So, what should we do from now on?” (Shiva)

That’s right.

Yorishiro had made Karen-san a light God Hero and Shiva will be making Hyue a Wind God Hero.

With the momentum created, you would normally go ‘now, what’s next!’, but...that’s all there is.

There’s nothing more.

We can’t find a way to make the other heroes into God Heroes!

“ ...”

“ ...”

Yorishiro and Shiva must have noticed that point as well.

We three were silent.

“...Well, first, let’s arrange the information.” (Haine)

The light Karen-san and the wind Hyue; after clearing these two, there’s three remaining heroes.

The fire Mirack, water Celestis, and the earth Sasae-chan; in order to make these three into God Heroes, there’s the need for the help of their respective Gods, but...

“All those other Gods are of no use...” (Haine)

“Right...” (Shiva)

“True...” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro, Shiva, and I were sharing the grief.

The three Gods necessary to make the other heroes into God Heroes: the Fire God Nova, the Water God Coacervate, Mother Earth Mantle.

All of them can’t be relied on and we have hit a wall!!

And so, the reason why they can't be relied on...

First, there's the Fire God Nova. He has incarnated just like us and is living in the surface world. But he didn't incarnate in a human, but into a monster. The fire element monster, Phalaris.

He was defeated by me and is now living a lazy life in Muspelheim.

Even now we meet every now and then, but he was completely a simple pet.

About that Fire God Nova...

"This God Hero plan...do you think he will accept joining in as well?" (Haine)

"Of course it is impossible. That muscle-brained idiotic God." (Shiva)

Even when Shiva is a Base Element God like him, he was merciless in his way of speaking about Nova.

It is true that Nova is currently only a cow and looks completely harmless, but in the past, he was in the side that hated the humans the most.

The reason he incarnated as the fire cow Phalaris was to use the high firepower of a monster to burn the humans after all.

"Do you think a guy like that would go as far as facing a painful experience to assist in the making of a God Hero? He would simply ruminate over it and then reject it." (Shiva)

I also thought the same, so I didn't say anything.

It is clear that it would be quite difficult to convince Nova and have him make the hero Mirack of the same element into a God Hero. But what's even more despairing is that Nova is actually easier to deal with than the remaining two.

From the remaining Gods, the only one that's actually possible to convince is Nova.

"...That Coacervate guy, what in the world is he doing?" (Haine)

"Don't know. I haven't seen him at all lately." (Shiva)

The Water God Coacervate is the most ingenious (self-proclaimed) God out of the six Gods of Creation .

Because of some trouble, I destroyed his surface world body. Even so, because he is a God, his soul didn't suffer anything, but since then, I haven't seen him once.

"I have met him-desu wa yo." (Yorishiro)

""Eh?""

Shiva and I were both surprised at the statement of Yorishiro.

She met him? That guy?

"It was right after Haine-san erased Mantle. Realizing that a God had been erased, he planned on creating another siege against Haine-san." (Yorishiro)

"And so, he approached you first since you are the natural weakness of Haine huh. As underhanded as always." (Shiva)

I also agreed with the opinion of Shiva.

"And then, what happened after?" (Haine)

"I immediately refused, and after insulting him for a good while, I destroyed the monster body that he was residing in. But if I knew things would turn out like this, I would have captured him and stuffed him inside an insect box or something." (Yorishiro)

As always, the grudge Yorishiro has towards the four Base Elements runs deep.

But even if Coacervate were to appear here, he would be even more difficult to convince than Nova. After all, in terms of being harmful towards humans, he would surpass Nova. He is trash that treats humans as toys and plays around with them.

And so, the conversation about Coacervate had ended.

"And then, about Mantle..." (Haine)

Mother Earth Mantle.

This one there's nothing we can do.

It has already been mentioned in the conversation just now, but she has been erased and is not in this world anymore.

There's no way we would be able to convince or have her cooperate if she is not even here to begin with.

"So we are at a stalemate huh." (Haine)

"Desu wa ne." (Yorishiro)

The more we talk, the more grim the mood turns.

We are about to fight the Demon Lords face on, and yet, we can only secure two God Heroes which is disheartening.

Now that it has come to this...

"Can't be helped." (Haine)

I stand up.

"No point brooding here. No choice but to act. If there's at least 1% possibility, let's try acting to achieve it." (Haine)

"What do you mean by that? Are you saying you will be going to search and defeat the Demon Lords yourself?" (Shiva)

No, that will be the last choice.

Before doing that, I would like to do everything we can.

"Then, are you going to go convince Nova? He is the one with the most chances within the remaining Gods, but..." (Yorishiro)

That's not it either.

It is true that within the Gods, the one who we clearly know where he is and there's a possibility of convincing is Nova. That's why I will leave him for later. It is exactly because we can go convince him anytime we want that there's no need to hurry and do it.

"Then...what are you going to do?" (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro looked like she didn't understand at all, so I said the answer.

"I will be reviving Mother Earth Mantle." (Haine)

Chapter 253: To the depths of Darkness

Mother Earth Mantle.

She is one of the six Gods of Creation and the Goddess that rules over earth.

In my opinion, she is a comrade that worked together with us in order to create the world, but after that, we separated and fought against each other.

We reunited after 1,600 years, but another problem happened with her, and in the end, I had no choice but to erase her with my strongest destruction technique; the ultimate darkness, a black hole.

And just like that, the God that rules over the earth had been erased from this world.

“The black hole is my final measure as a Dark God.” (Haine)

This place is not Apollon City. It is a foreign desolated place faraway.

While advancing through a desolate land where there’s no one, I say this.

“And with that, I erased Mantle. If I want to erase a God, this is the only

method there is.” (Haine)

“The sole power that can kill Gods huh. To think that you held such a power, as expected of the Dark God that stands at the summit of the six Gods of Creation.” (Shiva)

Shiva, who in the past was in awe of my strength and wanted to surpass it, said this.

We were riding flying machines and driving on the sand parallel to each other.

“Mantle wasn’t evil, but she was even more dangerous than that. More dangerous than even Nova and Coacervate who had clear animosity towards humans. I understand the feeling of Haine-san wanting to erase her.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro was riding at the back of the flying machine I am driving, holding my back tightly.

Yorishiro, Shiva, and I; with these group, we were pressing forward on an untrodden land.

Two of the Founders that govern the Grand Churches of the world were out of their posts which is a big problem, but even if we have to be slightly pushy in this, we have to make this mission succeed.

It is in order to bring back to this world one of the six Gods of Creation that is missing; Mother Earth Mantle.

We had come to a place that's far from Apollon City and Rudras Metropolis — the Nameless Desert.

“How long has it been since the last time we came here?” (Haine)

Sand as far as you can see. Due to the intense heat and dryness, this is a land of death that doesn't allow anyone who steps into it to return alive.

A desertified area that takes up a good percent of the continent. That is the Nameless Desert.

Normally, no one would step into it. You would treasure your life that you wouldn't do something like that. In the first place, there's no kind of task that would require you to enter this sand-filled place.

And so, in this desert where no one would actually come to, I did actually have a task I had to perform.

The first time, it was to journey into the Underworld Country; and the second one...

“Seriously, why did we come to such a place?” (Shiva)

Shiva mutters this as he wipes the sweat off his forehead.

Because of the heat, he was irritated.

“I don’t mind the reviving of Mantle. She easily gets swayed, so as long as she gets revived, there’s plenty chance to have her cooperate. But why did we come to the Nameless Desert? Is there some sort of relation with her here?”
(Shiva)

“What made this place into a desert was the divine power of Mantle.”
(Yorishiro)

Yorishiro’s statement made the eyes of Shiva go wide with an ‘eh?’.

“You must remember what happened here as well, right?” (Yorishiro)

“The Dark Underworld Country!!” (Shiva)

“That’s right. You four Base Elements destroyed that nation and a lone hero had crossed over a line that shouldn’t have been crossed. Going berserk with the power of shadows that is passed down in the Dark nation, she was about to engulf the whole world in shadows.” (Yorishiro)

In order to avoid that, Inflation sealed the shadow fiend with the whole Dark Underworld Country.

Now that I think about it, the one who helped in that was Mantle.

“By having Mantle make all this place into a desert, I had her help out in sinking the Underworld Country deep down. Since then, she has been pouring divine power into this desert for more than a millenia, and this place that was originally fertile, has been able to maintain its desertified state.” (Yorishiro)

She was doing something like that?!

“T-Then, the reason why Mantle used things like Golems to obtain more prayers than others was because she was being dried up by this?!” (Haine)

“In order to maintain this Nameless Desert, she had to utilize quite a good amount of divine power after all.” (Yorishiro)

““So heartless!””

Weren’t you the one who ordered her to do that, Yorishiro?!

With the order of the Light Goddess that is at a higher hierarchy from Mantle, she was made to utilize a large amount of divine power!

“But it was necessary to go to such lengths to seal the Underworld Country.” (Haine)

She not only literally sunk the city, but she also made the whole place into a desert so that no one would get close to it.

“But now that Mantle has been erased, it looks like this desert is slowly regaining its life.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro has stepped down from the flying machine, and with her feet on the sand, she could feel the life in it.

“In a century more, the Nameless Desert will regain its lifeforce completely and will revive into a land filled with green. Just like the time when the Underworld Country was thriving.” (Yorishiro)

If that’s the case, it would be slightly problematic.

A lot of people would come here and it will end up with them seeing ‘it’.

“I understand that, but in the end, what does this have to do with reviving Mantle? With the explanation just now, I couldn’t pick up anything about that.” (Shiva)

Shiva was even more irritated as he wiped off his sweat.

Right, let’s enter the main topic.

“The reason we came to the Nameless Desert was because of this.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro raised her hand at a place that at a glance had nothing and muttered something.

When she did that, cracks appeared in the space and broke just like that.

“Wa?!” (Shiva)

“It isn’t something to be surprised about, don’t you think. With my light divine

power, I created a barrier that twisted the direction of the light. Thanks to this, humans and animals can't detect this even when it is right before their eyes.”
(Yorishiro)

With that barrier released, what was inside the barrier was now clear for us to see.

A dark sphere floating in this desolate desert.

“Could it be...! This is...!” (Shiva)

“Don't carelessly get close to it, okay? If you get caught in its area of gravity pull, you would be swallowed along with your God soul and be unable to return.” (Haine)

That's right. What was in this Nameless Desert was a black hole.

What I had created at the Earth capital, Ishtar Blaze. It is the exact same as the one that absorbed and erased Mother Earth Mantle and its subordinate Grandma Wood.

“After things had calmed down in Ishtar Blaze, I moved it all the way here.”
(Haine)

The black hole that looked as if it had disappeared on its own had actually not disappeared. In reality, I made it look as if it had and moved it all the way here.

It took me my all to do that.

“If it is in this desert, no one would come here on a whim after all. Just in case, I asked Yorishiro to make an optical camouflage. Made in order to not have anyone get accidentally swallowed by it.” (Haine)

There was no more convenient place than this Nameless Desert where no one would come to.

“W-Why did you do that?!” (Shiva)

Shiva asked me with a pale face.

That question was natural, and I answered.

“Because I can’t erase it.” (Haine)

A black hole I have created once.

“I can’t erase it on my own will. That’s why I didn’t want to use it as much as possible. Because once it is created, it will be existing almost eternally.” (Haine)

Chapter 254: God Scale

There's a black hole floating in front of us.

The sand below it had already all been swallowed within the gravity range of it and formed a big gorge like that of a crater.

"It took me quite a lot of effort, you know. I had to bring it all the way from Ishtar Blaze to here." (Haine)

Even now, this thing would grab anyone that enters its territory and would swallow it whole.

Whether it is an object or a living being; whether it has form or not.

A black hole doesn't have likes or dislikes; it is the worst kind of glutton.

"This thing has continued to exist since the time Mantle was swallowed by it in Ishtar Blaze." (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro who was looking at the dark sphere like us said this.

"An attack that once it is done you can't erase it... The divine power attacks of us four Base Elements and the Light Goddess would disappear on their own once they fulfill their purpose!" (Shiva)

“The Earth, Water, Fire, Wind, and Light can simply melt into the equal elements that are in nature after all. Even dark matter follows that rule. Darkness melts into darkness.” (Haine)

But the black hole is different.

That is something that is completely separate from darkness. It swallows everything -even darkness.

“The original purpose of the Black Hole is to erase the world. When the creator Entropy judges that ‘this world was a failure’, this is the reset switch that brings it all back to zero.” (Haine)

It is...

“By no means is it a method to destroy something specific.” (Haine)

The Black Hole is way too strong of a measure to use as an attack.

It would be like using a bomb to kill an insect running around your house. Doing that would create damage to the house itself.

“This Black Hole is a serious problem to the world. It will continue to exist, swallowing everything in this world after all.” (Haine)

“I-Is there really no way to erase it? Right, if it’s the light element that can negate the darkness element...!” (Shiva)

It can't be helped that Shiva's face would turn pale blue.

"It is impossible." (Yorishiro)

The Light Goddess herself frankly states.

"In order to destroy the Black Hole with light element, there's the need to hit the compressed dark matter that serves as the core with light divine power. But before that happens, the Black Hole will catch the light with its gravity and will imprison the light in its Schwarzschild radius." (Yorishiro)

Thus, the light will fall into eternal movement.

"But well, this one was simply made to defeat Mantle without destroying the world, so it was created to its minimal capacity. Putting it in words, it would be like the weakest out of the weakest Black Holes. If it is on this level, I thought that maybe light divine power would manage to reach its dark matter core, but..." (Haine)

It didn't work.

And in reality, I had brought Yorishiro here once and asked her to do it, but even with the highest output of Yorishiro, she couldn't manage to break through the high gravity of the Black Hole and ended up being swallowed.

Because of that, I had no choice but to ask Yorishiro to create a camouflaging barrier.

In the end, even when it was the weakest Black Hole, there was no method to eliminate it.

“Then...this Black Hole will exist here for eternity?” (Shiva)

“Accurately speaking, it won’t be eternal though.” (Haine)

In order to give Shiva peace of mind, I decided on telling him the truth.

“The Black Hole will slowly disappear on its own after all. Humans and Gods can’t do anything about it, but there’s the possibility of time resolving it.”
(Haine)

“Black Holes will disappear on their own after some time, you say... and, how long is that?” (Shiva)

Hm, if I calculate it with this size, it would be...

“At the very least, around 100,000 years, maybe.” (Haine)

“A hund—!” (Shiva)

For some reason, the face of Shiva got even paler.

“Haine-san, the only one who would think that that amount of time is nothing is you-desu wa.” (Yorishiro)

“I feel like I now understand why he wasn’t so angry for being sealed 1,600 years!” (Shiva)

Shiva wiped off the sweat that trickled down his chin, but it looks like that sweat wasn’t simply from the heat of the desert.

“Well, I think that you now understand that a Black Hole is extremely troublesome, but the problem comes from here on.” (Yorishiro)

“Indeed. Our objective for coming here is obviously not to do something about this Black Hole.” (Haine)

Mother Earth Mantle.

To bring back the Earth Goddess that was swallowed by this Black Hole.

“Honestly speaking, I don’t know what happened to Mantle who disappeared inside this thing.” (Haine)

Even as the very person that created it, I still don’t know what happens to the things that this Black Hole absorbs.

There’s three possibilities.

The first one; Mantle who was caught by the gravity pull of the Black Hole has been crushed all the way along with her soul and was erased completely.

Second one; the heavy gravity inside the Black Hole created a ripple in space-time and Mantle was thrown to a world that is completely different from our own.

Third one; because the gravity had been reduced to a minimum, she wasn't erased nor thrown to a different world, but instead, was caught in the Schwarzschild radius like light and is in eternal movement.

"If it is the first and second one, we won't be able to do anything, but if it is the third one, there might still be hope." (Haine)

I say this while glaring straight at the black sphere I had created.

"By scooping out Mantle who might be caught in the circle of the Black Hole, we will bring her back to this world. By doing that, she can strengthen Sasae-chan and it should be possible to have an Earth God Hero." (Haine)

The possibilities to go against the Demon Lords will increase.

In order to win the battle, this is a challenge that can't be avoided.

"Yeah! And, what should we do to release Mantle?" (Shiva)

"I don't know." (Haine)

"Eh?"

I honestly answer the question of Shiva.

“Even if Mantle is actually safe in the circle of the Black Hole, I can’t think of a way to bring her back to this world.” (Haine)

In the past, I said that I don’t have a way to seal a God.

Without a way to release the seal, would you even be able to call it sealing?

Chapter 255: Mother Earth God rescue plan

And so, we all lost strength and were lying around.

The desert's sun was hitting us as if it were hell, but Yorishiro took away the heat in the light and Shiva was dealing with the air conditioning, so even when we were in the middle of the desert, it was decently pleasant.

"...What do we do?" (Shiva)

Shiva was finally unable to endure and lets out a complaint.

"I heard that we would be bringing Mantle back, so I came all the way to this desert, and yet, don't go saying you don't have a way after we arrived! It was a completely useless trek then!!" (Shiva)

"You are noisy! That's why I said that we will be betting on a 1% chance! I didn't have the confidence that I would be able to explain it properly unless we were in the place! ...Ah, don't go further from there. You might get swallowed." (Haine)

In reality, we are pretty close to the zone to the point that it might be dangerous.

"I brought you here thinking that with three Gods a good idea might pop out. You know, three heads are better than one." (Haine)

"Like hell I would know. What kind of sage were you expecting by gathering

three Gods?” (Shiva)

True.

But in order to go against the Demon Lords, I would like the strength of Mother Earth Mantle.

Even if we fail, there’s no lost in challenging the impossible.

“I have thought this but...” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro didn’t get disheartened and gives out a proposition.

“How about I try shooting light divine power at my max output once again? If it reaches the dark matter that serves as its core, the Black Hole would be destroyed and it might release Mantle.” (Yorishiro)

“But we tried that once and it didn’t work... Right, how about making another Black Hole and make it collide with that other Black Hole?” (Haine)

“No no no no no no no!!” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro surprisingly gets agitated and stops me.

It is rare for her to get this agitated.

“Who knows what would happen when two Black Holes try to erase each

other! It might even end up with the world being destroyed before even the Demon Lords do anything!” (Yorishiro)

It would be the easiest way to destroy the world huh...

Yeah, let's not do it.

“But in that case, we have no routes to go. Is it really impossible to bring back Mantle from the Black Hole?” (Haine)

No matter how much we wring our brains out, we can't find a way to breakthrough.

As expected of my ultimate technique...no, calling it an ultimate technique would be too lukewarm.

“...If the rescue of Mantle ends up being impossible, what would happen?” (Shiva)

Shiva questions and I had no choice but to answer with exactly what I had in my head.

“No choice but to give up. And then, we will head to Muspelheim to convince Nova.” (Haine)

“From the remaining Gods, the only one that has a chance to agree is Nova. It is safe to think that Coacervate is out of the question. In this current state where we don't know when the Demon Lords will be making their move, we

should think of time as more important than we normally feel it.” (Yorishiro)

Meaning that we can't waste a single second.

We have to make a decision right this instant.

Will we stop here and make an attempt to revive Mantle, or should we immediately give up and head to where Nova is.

There's no time to think.

The time from now on has to be used for action.

Now then, Mantle or Nova?

“Light will definitely win against darkness. That is the settled law.” (Shiva)

“Shiva?” (Haine)

Shiva suddenly did one step towards the Black Hole.

Of course, he doesn't advance any further. If he mistakenly gets too close, he will get pulled by the black sphere's gravity.

“The reason why the Black Hole surpasses that law and wins against light is because there's a gravity barrier before the dark matter and it twists the light divine power...right?” (Shiva)

“Yeah.” (Haine)

But what do you plan on doing by confirming that, Shiva?

“It wouldn’t be a stretch to call the incarnation of the Light Goddess, Yorishiro, as the strongest light user of the world. If even Yorishiro doing her all cannot break through the gravity barrier of the Black Hole...!” (Shiva)

Shiva spreads both of his hands and begins to control his wind divine power.

“Shiva, what are you doing?!” (Haine)

I was flustered.

That’s because Shiva had his body turned into tatters after the fight with the Demon Lord Raphael and he can’t fight anymore.

If he forces himself to use divine power, his body might get destroyed from the backlash!

“Don’t underestimate me. It is true that I can’t release my full power anymore, but if I save my strength, I can still utilize a decent amount of divine power. Just like this...” (Shiva)

A thin glass board was created on top of Shiva’s hand. What is that?

“By using the distortion of wind, I created a lens. A lens used to intensify light, that is. If it is divine power control of this level, even my battered body can endure.” (Shiva)

“An air lens! I see. By concentrating all my divine power output onto the lens, it can increase the power even more, right?!” (Yorishiro)

If the strength increases, it could be possible to break through the gravity barrier and reach the core!

“Then I will do it as well!” (Haine)

I release dark matter and shape the pitch-black lump into a ring shape.

By doing that, the view from inside the ring began to distort.

“This is a gravity lens created from dark matter. The intensified light of Yorishiro that has passed through the air lens of Shiva will be amplified even more with this gravity lens. If we increase the concentration and the power goes up...” (Haine)

It might be possible to destroy the Black Hole.

By doing that, we might be able to release Mantle that’s possibly caught in the ring of the Black Hole!

“Fufufu...this is kind of amusing-desu wa ne.” (Yorishiro)

“What is?” (Haine)

I was confused by Yorishiro who had suddenly begun laughing.

“Because you know, joining strengths like this feels...like we are doing what Karen-san and the others do.” (Yorishiro)

“...Ah.” (Haine)

Isn't that fine.

Gods learning from humans.

Let's learn from Karen-san and the others and cooperate between Gods to destroy the Black Hole.

“Well then, let's try it! Haine, stand in front of me. Let's line up the gravity lens and the air lens!” (Shiva)

“Roger that.” (Haine)

We line up right in between Yorishiro and the target. We were basically the barrel that guides the shell to its destination and accelerates it.

And Yorishiro who has the role of shooting the shell was standing at our back.

“Mantle...we are going this far to save you. It will trouble us if you don't

properly return and be of use-desu wa yo!” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro directs her pair up knife-hands at the black sphere -through the two lens that amplify the light.

“In order to pierce something, this technique is the most appropriate. I will be borrowing your technique, Karen-san. [Holy Light Line]!” (Yorishiro)

The sharp beam that was released from Yorishiro’s knife-hands entered the air lens and was made thinner, and then, it passed through my gravity lens and gets even thinner and sharper.

And like this, our plan to save Mantle had begun.

How to say it, it felt as if we were forcefully opening a vault that we had lost the keys to.

But obviously, the mission proved difficult and we ended up being nailed in the Nameless Desert for several days.

In that time, events advanced at a surprising speed.

Chapter 256: The plot of the end

Now then, from here on, I will take on the part of narrating —the fragment of the evil Light Goddess, Sunnysol Ates.

It has been several days since the battle in the Light Grand Church against my other half, Yorishiro, and the unexpectedly tough Kourin Karen-san.

Having escaped from Apollon City, I was hiding myself at a place far away from human civilization.

At a ‘certain place’ that is separate from the world of humans.

Now that I have revealed my identity to my other half, Yorishiro, I don’t plan on living my life with this human body anymore.

I will not be acting as Sunnysol Ates or the evil half of the Light Goddess Inflation, but on my duty as a God.

But in order to not make things complicated, let’s leave my name as being Ates for now.

About the ‘certain place’ that I am using as my home, it is at a place that is far away from the five nations and among the mountains, and it is impossible to approach by human means.

Among those mountains, I made a giant castle with my powers as a God and was making base there for the destruction of humanity...no, if I had to put it more accurately, it is not a castle but a cocoon. A cocoon that stores my precious Light Demon Lord, Lucifer.

This whole castle was made specially as an organic outer shell to form the Light Demon Lord.

“It still needs more time it seems.” (Ates)

I was checking the state of this cute child that was sleeping inside the castle.

Now that I have obtained the final piece that was the shadow spear Abel, my Lucifer is on its way to completion.

But there's no need to hurry. All the pieces of the puzzle are within my hands after all.

“What's left is to piece them together one by one.” (Ates)

I bid farewell to the sleeping child for now and go down the stairs -in order to tame the problematic wild dogs that are there.

When I arrive at the room, a problem soon happened.

The group that was supposed to be four only has three now.

“...Where is the Water Demon Lord Gabriel?” (Ates)

I look at the remaining three and point out the only missing one.

They are quite peculiar compared to humans, so there's no way I would mistake their names and faces.

“Who knows. He said ‘I thought of something amusing’ and left. Don't know where he went though.” (Uriel)

“He must have been thinking about a plan to destroy the humans. He is the scheming type after all. He probably has prepared a hell that will make us go ‘wow’.” (Raphael)

The Earth Demon Lord Uriel and the Wind Demon Lord Raphael speak casually.

These idiots! I couldn't help but shout this inside my head.

In order to eradicate the humans that stole the eyes of my beloved Entropy, there's necessary steps to take. They don't understand this at all.

In the end, even if they have obtained intelligence, monsters are still monsters.

To make these wild beasts move along my scenario, I will need to do quite the work.

“You people, I will be saying this again but, I am the envoy of the Great Demon Lord Lucifer-sama.” (Ates)

That is the setting I made in order to call the Demon Lords to this castle.

Currently, this is the only way to have them obey me in this human body.

“I am the servant of Lucifer-sama who rules over light. He is still in his sleep towards perfection, and since Lucifer-sama can’t speak and act at his current state, I am serving as his messenger. I am the person that receives the will of Lucifer-sama. You can consider me the priestess of Lucifer-sama.” (Ates)

Of course, this is all made-up.

But if I don’t say all this, the Demon Lords wouldn’t even hear me out in my present outward appearance of a human.

“Please take my words as if they were from Lucifer-sama himself. If you go against my words, Lucifer-sama himself will be judging you when he awakens. Is that okay?” (Ates)

When I approach them with a slightly strong tone, the Demon Lords were unexpectedly obedient.

“Tch, I know. The words of Lucifer-sama are absolute.” (Uriel)

“This place that you guided us to is pretty comfortable after all. I don’t mind thinking of your words as Lucifer-sama’s for now.” (Raphael)

It was mixed with a click of the tongue, but fine. As long as they move obediently as my pawns, it is fine.

“Then, I will be telling you the order of Lucifer-sama. The time to fight has come.” (Ates)

The moment I said that, I certainly felt the exaltation that ran between the Demon Lords.

“The battle between the monsters and humans to decide the new rulers of the world is finally starting. The wish of Lucifer-sama is destruction and eradication. In order to make this surface world into a paradise for monsters, every single one of the lowly human race has to be removed —by your hands.” (Ates)

“This feast of death...is the wish of Lucifer-sama, right?”

“Interesting. It is finally time to slaughter those haughty humans huh.”

The Demon Lords were showing more naked will than I thought.

Even without ordering them to eradicate the humans, that is their desire. And their instinct as Demon Lords enhances this.

Looks like this will turn into a good flow.

I decided on telling them the plan immediately.

“I know plenty well the strength of you all. In order to eradicate the humans, a single one of you would be plenty enough, but there’s a single problem, and just that single thing is making it difficult.” (Ates)

“Kuromiya Haine.” (Raphael)

“The darkness user huh. It is true that he is not simply on the level of troublesome.” (Uriel)

Unexpectedly, the Demon Lords were composed and could analyze the strength of others.

I thought that with people like them who possess absolute power, they would have their own pride for that power and wouldn’t admit that there’s other people stronger than them, bringing them to their own demise, but...it looks like this makes them even more worth using.

“And so, Lucifer-sama has provided you with a plan.” (Ates)

“A plan, you say?”

“That’s right. An attack on all five nations by you four Demon Lords!!” (Ates)

Apollon City, Muspelheim, Hydra Ville, Ishtar Blaze, and Rudras Metropolis; these five nations are in separate locations, and it is impossible for Haine-san to protect them by himself.

In the end, if we exclude Haine-san, everyone is small fry.

If we think of Haine-san as being their only fighting force, it would be a 4:1 with the Demon Lords.

“Haine-san is using Apollon City as his base, so I will have you people attack the other four nations. Haine-san will hurriedly head to assist, but he will only be able to save one capital. The other three capitals will be disappearing from the map in the same day.” (Ates)

Along with the heroes that protect those nations.

“Putting it in another way, it would mean that one nation will receive the help of Kuromiya Haine, right?” (Raphael)

“What will the Demon Lord that gets faced with that do?” (Uriel)

Looks like this people ask proper questions. It makes them easy to deal with, but at the same time hard to deal with.

“I will leave that to the jurisdiction of the person in question. You can challenge the darkness with your pride as Demon Lord on the line, or you can also quickly retreat. The most important part of this plan is to disturb Haine-san after all.” (Ates)

No matter the case, the simultaneous attack of the Demon Lords will bring destruction and chaos to the world like never before.

Haine-san won't be able to stop that.

In the end, he is only one person.

It is not like I am not bothered by a few things, but I can simply stop Yorishiro by moving myself, and the incarnation of Quasar that is the Wind Founder is in tatters and unable to fight.

They are all people that are not worth attention.

I repeat, Haine-san alone won't be able to stop the Demon Lords!

"Now go, Demon Lords! Go to the nations that the humans have raised and make the humans shed blood! To the thousands or millions! In order to wet the throat of Lucifer-sama by the time he awakens!" (Ates)

And in concert, the Demon Lords raised their voice.

""Nah, not now.""

Eeeeeh?!

Chapter 257: Demon Lord's invitation to death

“W-What did you say?!” (Ates)

I -Sunnysol Ates-have provided you with such a perfect plan, and yet, you Demon Lords rejected it?

Uriel and Raphael; as if these guys had not been listening to me talk since the beginning, they resume their lazing about.

“Y-You people...are you going against Lucifer-sama?!” (Ates)

I bring out all the dignity I could as I said this, and the first one to answer was Raphael with an awkward expression.

“We didn't say we were rejecting it. We are saying it is fine if it isn't now.”
(Raphael)

What's with that way of speaking as if you were children leaving your homework for later?

“Within the Demon Lords, I was the one who encountered Kuromiya Haine immediately and fought a grand battle with him. Because of that, I ended up losing most of my body.” (Raphael)

Raphael was wearing an armor that covered his whole body and even within the Demon Lords he stood out with that appearance.

The role of that armor was to support the body inside that was regenerating, in other words, it was being used as a plaster.

“There’s the need for time to completely regenerate the many cells that I lost. If you wait for a bit more, I will show you that I can destroy all of the humans myself.” (Raphael)

“I also have a similar reason to that.” (Uriel)

Uriel is the next one to speak.

“I took an attack from Kuromiya Haine and ended up receiving a wound, though it is not on the same level as Raphael’s. My bark was peeled off cleanly. Walking outside like this is embarrassing.” (Uriel)

What is this guy saying.

Since Uriel is the Earth Demon Lord, his body has an appearance like that of a tree. The surface of it is tree itself, but because of the battle with Haine before, the bark part was peeled off and the white grains are visible.

If we had to put it in human terms, it would be as if he were naked, maybe?

“I want to avoid leaving until I am covered by a black-lustre bark. A grand slaughter requires a grand appearance. Don’t you think?” (Raphael)

“ ... ”

These damn monsters!

As I thought, they are all idiots!

Now that my other half Yorishiro has a card called God Heroes, there's nothing to lose in being quick, and yet...! The Wind and Earth Demon Lord are throwing a tantrum, and the Water Demon Lord is not even here.

At this rate, the simultaneous Demon Lord attack I made will end up collapsing!

“I will go.”

At that moment, an austere voice that made the earth tremble resounded in the place.

It was low and yet it travelled well.

“Oh!”

“Michael huh!”

The Fire Demon Lord that had been here all the time but maintained silent.

A giant muscular man with burning crimson wings.

Because of the dignified aura he lets out, the other two Demon Lords raise their voices.

“Uriel and Raphael should prioritize healing their wounds. Gabriel must have his own thoughts as well. But if we were to not make any achievements by the time Lucifer-sama awakens, we wouldn’t be able to welcome him as comrades of his.” (Michael)

The big frame of Michael made my body as Ates have no choice but to look up at him. If I didn’t, I wouldn’t even be able to see his face.

“I will go. I will destroy a single human settlement and make that the beacon of war.” (Michael)

“W-Wait there!!” (Ates)

I hurriedly chase after Michael who was about to leave the castle.

“Weren’t you listening to my plan either?! The attack to the nations has meaning when it is a simultaneous attack!” (Ates)

Four Demon Lords attack four nations; it is when that scenario takes place that we can make Haine-san fall into confusion.

“If you leave on your own, it is basically telling Haine-san to go there! Are you planning on making a foolish attack?!” (Ates)

“That person is not almighty. By the time he receives notice of the attack, he will take time to arrive.” (Michael)

The analysis of Michael was sound.

“I just have to finish my task by the time he arrives, and then leave. Kuromiya Haine is an opponent that we must defeat in time, but this will be a decent fire starter for the time when Lucifer-sama awakens.” (Michael)

“T-Then at the very least make your target Rudras Metropolis!” (Ates)

“...Why?” (Michael)

The blazing eyes of Michael look down at me.

...How conceited.

“Don’t you know the elemental affinities? The four base elements have their respective weaknesses. The opponent you as the Fire Demon Lord are advantageous against is wind. If you attack Rudras Metropolis that has the most wind users, the easy wipe out will be even easier.” (Ates)

If you are going to act, taking the most efficient way is the most intelligent way.

I will teach that to you coarse monsters.

“...Those are not the words of Lucifer-sama.” (Michael)

“Eh?”

“That’s a way of thinking similar to those lowly humans. Scheming is in the first place something that the weak utilize. A way for the weak to oppose the strong.” (Michael)

What is this giant man saying?

“That’s why, against that Kuromiya Haine, I won’t mind using scheming. I know that he is stronger than us. In order to obtain victory, for the sake of a future with us as the superior race, doing all that’s needed to be done will not hurt our pride.” (Michael) to

“That’s right! That’s why you should attack Rudras Metropolis!” (Ates)

I desperately tried to chase after Michael whose strides reach a lot further than mine.

“But what about the other humans aside from Kuromiya Haine?” (Michael)

“?!”

“They are weak. On the level of worms. To use scheming against enemies like that, it would be like the strong fearing the weak. Do you think our pride will maintain if we were to do that? Is there any meaning in a victory you can’t take

pride in?" (Michael)

What stupid things are you saying!

Monsters talking about pride? Are you a true idiot?!

"I won't use schemes against anyone but Kuromiya Haine. I will destroy them straight on. That's my pride, and it is also etiquette of the strong against the weak. The weak have their path and the strong have their path to follow."
(Michael)

"Then you..." (Ates)

I can't keep this up anymore.

Just let these idiots do as they wish.

"Where are you planning on attacking?" (Ates)

"The nation that is related to fire just as me —the Fire capital, Muspelheim."
(Michael)

Muspelheim.

So tragedy will befall them huh.

Oh well, whatever. Just go around slaughtering as you wish and get killed for

all I care.

— —

Now then, from here on, someone else will take the role of narrating.

There's a more fitting person to talk about the blood feast that will be beginning from now on, after all.

Chapter 258: The night before the fierce battle

It has been a while since I have not met with Karen-san and the others and my stress is accumulating steadily.

I -the fire hero, Katakami Mirack-am in Muspelheim today again.

That's how it works after all.

After the appearance of those fearsome Lords of monsters -the Demon Lords- there has been a martial law placed in the higher-ups of the church and it is covered in a strict atmosphere.

The movements of us heroes has been limited to a certain degree and leaving our base is in basis a no.

On top of that, even if it is temporal, the previous heroes have returned to their posts and not only in Muspelheim, but all the five nations are in a state where we are waiting for war.

The war will start soon.

A war between humans and monsters that will decide who will be the new rulers of the surface world. A war that has our lives at stake.

We heroes have to stand at the front to fight.

The Demon Lords are overwhelming, and I don't feel like I would be able to defeat them upfront at all, but even if that's the case, who will fight if not us?

That's why the Demon Lords are in hiding, and in this time of silence that could be called the calm before the storm, I have to train as much as I can and increase my power.

And in that time, what I am doing is...

"F-Fire hero Mirack and...!" (Mirack)

(Background voice): "The fire cow Phalaris' ...!"

""Explosive hero show!!""

Waaaaaaaaaa!!

The venue was incredibly heated up.

The audience seats were all filled with children and their parents, and their cheerings were directed at me and the cow.

.....

...What's this?

“(Oi Mirack!! What are you getting all spaced out for?! The performance has already begun, you know!)”

“Y-Y-Yes!” (Mirack)

I was shouted at by Sis Kyouka in a low voice and I hurriedly remember the words of the script that were stored in my mind.

“E-Everyone, are you doing good?! I-I am the fire hero that was chosen by the Fire Church to protect the peace of everyone, Katak Mirack!!” (Mirack)

At the same time as she does the choreographed pose she practiced beforehand, a big wave of cheers welled up.

“Kyaaa! So cool!!” “Mirack-oneechan, so cool!!” “Mirack-oneesama!!” “It was worth lining up the whole night!!”

I was made to receive all those heated cheers as the one standing on the stage.

“And today, as a special guest, we have the number one most popular in Muspelheim, Phalaris-kun!” (Mirack)

(Background voice): “Everyone, treat me well!!”

Moving in concert to the call, a cow casually moves around.

That comicalness heated up the stage even more.

“Kya! Cute!” “Phal-tan, so cute!!” “Look over here!” “Stand on two!!”

Why is this cow so popular?!

I can’t even think that this is actually that monster that destroyed a large area and made it a dangerous location.

I was displeased by a lot of things, but I have to do the duty I was given.

“Now then, today, Mirack and Phalaris will be providing you a charming endurance show!! Children and parents! As people affiliated to the Fire Church, endure till the very end, okay?!”

(Background voice): “I am Phalaris~!!”

By the way, the voice of Phalaris is being sponsored by the previous fire hero, Sis Kyouka.

And so, after the performance ended in a big success, I imploded in the dressing room.

“What is the meaning of this?!” (Mirack)

I slam my fists onto the table with strength that felt as if I was trying to break it in two.

Opposite of me, there’s Sis Kyouka that is licking a candy to soothe her exhausted throat.

By the way, that Phalaris is also in the dressing room munching on grass at the corner.

Just what is going on with this atmosphere?

“...”

Sis Kyouka begins to drink a lot of honey tea that’s probably also for her throat.

“...Wumu, as expected of the high grade tea that Sarasa brought from Hydra Ville. Even the scent is on a different level. This must be culture shock!”
(Kyouka)

“SIIIISS!!” (Mirack)

“What’s the matter, junior Mirack. What are you getting so exalted about?”
(Kyouka)

Or more like, aren't you previous heroes getting way too along?!

“What is the reason for your anger? The public performance of today also ended in a big success. The event at the end of the performance was a success as well. The children were all going ‘please let me touch your abs, please let me touch your abs~~’. You were incredibly popular.” (Kyouka)

“The very fact that we are doing public performances is the problem!!”
(Mirack)

There's no way Sis Kyouka doesn't understand.

“Humans are currently facing an unprecedented danger! The Demon Lords are leading powerful monsters, and the war that has our existence at stake might begin as soon as tomorrow! In such a precarious time, there's no time to be playing around!” (Mirack)

Normally, shouldn't we be shutting ourselves in the Fire Church and be devoting ourselves all day in training?

Shouldn't we be concentrating in preparing ourselves for battle?!

“...It is exactly because of that.” (Kyouka)

Sis Kyouka leaves the finished cup on top of the table.

“It is true that danger is approaching this world. That's exactly why you have to take action as a hero.” (Kyouka)

“That’s right. That’s why...!” (Mirack)

This is not the time to be playing around!

“But the action you have to take for that sake is not to train yourself to become stronger.” (Kyouka)

“Eh?!” (Mirack)

“Weren’t you the one that taught me that, Mirack? At that heroes match before, you taught me that rather than strength you get from training, the strength that comes from connecting with others is stronger than anything and more precious.” (Kyouka)

Chapter 259: Around the open-air fire.

“Being blinded by power and putting your all in training was your past style, Mirack.” (Kyouka)

Sis Kyouka pointed this out and I ended up being dumbfounded.

Why is such a quiet atmosphere going around this dressing room where we have just finished a public performance?

“You said that when you became stronger on your own this way, you got stronger in exchange of forgetting many things. You said that it was your comrades that made you remember those things.” (Kyouka)

“.....”

“...That’s what you told me.” (Kyouka)

I couldn’t say anything.

I couldn’t object, and the only thing that resounded in the place for a while were the munching sounds of Phalaris eating grass at the corner of the room.

“By gaining connections with people, you obtained a wide variety of powers, right? That is your new self. In that case, what’s the point of forgetting that and

regressing to your past self?” (Kyouka)

“Could it be that Sis...you were trying to make me remember that?!” (Mirack)

With this sham of a hero show?

“It wasn’t my idea. Master planned it and ordered me to put it into motion.”
(Kyouka)

“Uh...” (Mirack)

Master, you say. That Master?

“Our Fire Founder and Master that is famous for his ‘Let there be hot-bloodedness’?” (Mirack)

“Even if our Master is like that, he was quite worried about you. He saw through the fact that you were truly scared of the Demon Lords and the depths of your heart had grown unsteady.” (Kyouka)

“Ugh.” (Mirack)

Being told that, I had no words to return.

In reality, no matter what I do to oppose the Demon Lords, no matter if I shut myself in to train all on my own, it wouldn’t change much.

“Humans are foolish beings. The values that they have obtained from overbearing hardships can be easily forgotten. That’s why there’s the training for pursuit of knowledge. There’s no end to training and learning.” (Kyouka)

Phalaris was still munching on grass.

Munch Munch Munch

“...It is true that I might have grown impatient because of how powerful those Demon Lords are. Because I was overwhelmed by them, I had forgotten about the connections I have with my most important people.” (Mirack)

*MunchMunch**

“That was the reason for this public performances, right?! By making direct contact with the residents of Muspelheim, you were trying to make me remember my connections with the people!” (Mirack)

“It is also important for the citizens. The appearance of the Demon Lords is slightly known within the normal populace as well. Reducing the anxiety of the people is also an important duty of a hero.” (Kyouka)

To think that such stupid act had such important meaning!

And Phalaris still continued munching on grass.

.....

“My eyes have been opened! I was properly doing my job as a hero today, right?!” (Mirack)

“As expected of Mirack for noticing that much! That’s how my junior should be! It is already safe to leave you the position of hero!” (Kyouka)

We both were overwhelmed with emotion and hugged in the dressing room. And at the side, there’s Phalaris.

Munch Munch Munch Munch Munch Munch Munch Munch Munch Munch
**MunchMunch Munch Munch Munch Munch Munch*

““SHUT UP!””

Because of how annoying that sound was becoming, Sis Kyouka and I ended up shouting.

What’s with this cow?

It is as if it were throwing cold water at our emotional scene...

(.....Hmph.)

Eh?

What happened just now? It sounded as if someone had snorted.

“In the first place, why is this guy also here? This thing was originally a monster -an enemy of humans, right?” (Mirack)

I thought I said quite the sound thing, but at the same time, I felt as if I was asking this question way too late.

“True, but...this guy already gained quite a lot of popularity in Muspelheim, and in a sense, it surpasses even our popularity as heroes, you know.” (Kyouka)

“Eeeh?!” (Mirack)

Seriously?

“That novelness and overbearing gestures created popularity, and there were obviously people who came here specially to see him. His character goods and things related to him are selling like hot cakes and the Fire Church is truly joyous about it.” (Kyouka)

He even appeared in the heroes match after all.

If we make him go around, it will serve as big advertisement huh.

Why did it end up like this?

In the past, this thing was a ferocious monster residing in the Radona mountain range. And Sis Kyouka and I were grinding our teeth unable to defeat him, and yet, now we are touring around together.

This is way too misfortunate.

“Well, isn’t it fine? Don’t you think he has a pretty likeable face when you look at it this way?” (Kyouka)

Sis Kyouka stroked the head of Phalaris that was still single-mindedly chewing on grass, but as if that wasn’t enough, she got close enough to press her chest onto him.

Phalaris ignored her and chewed on.

“How to say it... Sis Kyouka has also changed.” (Mirack)

“Not really. I loved animals since way back, you know? There’s no woman that hates the lactating type that is fluffy.” (Kyouka)

No...I think that in the past, Sis Kyouka wasn’t the type who would get attracted in that kind of girly manner.

“How about you touch him as well, Mirack? This guy is incredibly fluffy, to the point that you wouldn’t even believe he is a cow.” (Kyouka)

“Okay...” (Mirack)

Being urged by Sis Kyouka, I try to stroke the back of Phalaris and it was indeed true that his hair is fluffy.

What's with this guy?!

This can't be described simply as fluffiness! It is on the level of a house cat that is being brushed every single day!

I think that in the past it was stiffer than this!

As expected, is it because he is always eating good things?! Is it that?!

"Sis Kyouka, this is dangerous. I was thinking everyday about 'why is this cow so famous?' but I can understand why this nice feeling of touch is so popular."
(Mirack)

"It is true that it is dangerous. It has an addicting feeling to it and that actually makes it even worse. Oi Mirack, why are you hugging the cow? Don't try to feel the fluffiness with all your body!" (Kyouka)

"Sis Kyouka as well! Aren't you also hugging him to the point that your boobs are squished?! Sis Kyouka is the one that is trying to feel the fluffiness with your whole body! Get a grip of yourself!" (Mirack)

From the right, it is me; from the left, it is Sis Kyouka; the both of us are enjoying the fluffiness of the cow. Even with that, it was munching on the grass as if ignoring us.

(.....Hmph!!)

As I said, who is the one that has been snorting for a while now?

Chapter 260: Master and juniors

“...By the way, Sis Kyouka.” (Mirack)

“What is it?” (Kyouka)

I had lost myself in the fluffiness of the cow and it took a while to recover my senses.

“I am fine with directly interacting with the citizens, but...what about those big signs that are at the venue?!” (Mirack)

If you leave the dressing room and peek at the stage in the venue, there’s signs here and there, and also posters. What’s written in them is the name of a certain inn...

“Isn’t that inn the one that Sis Kyouka’s husband works in?!” (Mirack)

“Isn’t it fine to have at least that much side-benefit?!” (Kyouka)

If you say that, I couldn’t say anything back.

They are in the stage where they will be marrying and make a family, but because of the unexpected situation regarding the arrival of the Demon Lords, she can’t take maternity leave.

In a sense, I feel more pity towards Sis...

“Hero-sama!” “Mirack-oneesama!” “...Our Oneesama.”

After finishing the cleaning of the venue, three of the staff there had come to us.

The respective names of these three girls are Braidley Glassfin, and Firey. They are the military force of our Fire Church, the Ignis Militant corps.

In other words, the staff in charge of the construction and cleaning of the stage is being done by the Ignis corps.

“Mirack-oneesama! The cleaning up of the venue is mostly done! Can I shake your hand?!”

“We want the Oneesamas to move to the next venue by tomorrow! Can I hug you?!”

“...Can I fondle your breasts?”

There’s no way you can.

Braidley has braided hair, Glassfin has glasses, and Firey is tall.

They are girls who are close to my age and are like my close aides as a hero. But as you can see, they are ruffians who have a quirk or two, and even I find it

hard to deal with them..... Or more like, why is it that the majority of the people of the Fire Church are attracted to the same gender?

“Well, isn’t it fine, my junior Mirack?” (Kyouka)

“It isn’t.” (Mirack)

Sis Kyouka, please don’t just accept their weirdness.

“You are my junior, and they are your juniors. The soul of the Fire nation is passed on in this way to the next era.” (Kyouka)

I feel like the only thing passing down is the perverted soul though...

“Previous hero-sama! I am honored to be in your presence!”

“We will shoulder the name of the Ignis Militant corps and act in a manner that won’t bring shame to it! That’s why I want to touch the boobs of Mirack-oneesama!”

“...When your heart moves on God’s will, there’s nothing to be ashamed of.”

It is just that there’s a lot of lesbians here.

.....Well, that’s how it went.

I was doing decently well with the seniors and juniors of the Fire Church.

It is true that even if the danger of the Demon Lords is close, hurriedly increasing my muscle training menu will not give me the strength to go against them. Then, by clearing the worries of the people to strengthen the unity is also the duty of a hero.

I wonder what Karen and the others are doing right now?

I have not met them since the heroes match at Rudras Metropolis, but they should also be doing something before the battle against the Demon Lords.

It is nice to be together with the people of my nation, but I also want to meet them.

“I want to fondle Karen’s boobs...” (Mirack)

Maybe because of the noisiness of the people surrounding me, I unconsciously let out my desire.

“By the way, Kyouka-oneesama! Can we also mofu mofu Phalaris?!”

“The Phalaris meat that you normally wouldn’t be able to touch unless you line up for 2 hours or more! We want some side benefits as well!”

“...Is the order a cow?” <Ref to Is your order a rabbit?>

Won’t Phalaris get all exhausted the next day for being messed around so much like a hamster?

“ ... ”

Eh?

Sis Kyouka didn't answer the three and was looking at me.

...Ah, so that's how it is.

“...Can't be helped then. There's still time before we move, so until then, you can mofu mofu him. Just make sure it doesn't affect your own job negatively.”
(Mirack)

“““Understood. Thank you very much!!””””

...By leaving the response to me, Sis Kyouka gave me face as the current hero.

That consideration doesn't fit her character. It simply means that she has also been changing.

It was at that moment...

{Let there be hot-bloodedness.}

The speaker that had not been packed up yet had rang.

The voice that came out after the high *kiin* of the speakers was a person I am familiar with!

“That voice is...!” (Mirack)

“Our Master, the Fire Founder-sama?!” (Kyouka)

He is the head of our Fire Church and also our Master that guided us in the path of martial arts!

But why?!

Master is supposed to be at the Fire Grand Sanctuary.

The outside sector of Muspelheim is quite far away from the center of the city, you know.

“Report! An emergency call from the Fire Grand Sanctuary!!”

One of the three, Glassfin, immediately informs me.

{Let there be hot-bloodedness.} (Enou)

“What?!” “What is the meaning of this!”

Sis Kyouka and I were paying attention to the transmission.

{Let there be hot-bloodedness.} (Enou)

“Eh?!”

{Let there be hot-bloodedness.} (Enou)

“No way!!”

Something like that happened?!

“...Hey, I always think this but...why is it that only Mirack-oneesama and Kyouka-oneesama understand the Founder’s ‘let there be hot-bloodedness’ completely?!”

“It is still in a realm we can’t understand yet!”

“...We don’t understand huh. This level of realm is still not in our reach.”

The three girls were confused, but there’s no time to be.

“You people! Listen well!!” (Mirack)

The mild mood was blown away in an instant.

“According to the transmission of the Founder just now, monsters have

appeared at the east plain of Muspelheim!! Moreover, it is a horde of them!! They are coming straight at us!” (Mirack)

The destined battle was about to happen here and now.

Chapter 261: Suffering of the Fire capital

A massive army of monsters was heading towards the Fire capital, Muspelheim.

Receiving this information, all of the members of the Ignis Militant corps immediately prepared for battle.

I as the fire hero, Katakami Mirack, obviously had to stand at the frontlines, so I was heading to the defensive line that was made in the estimated route of the monsters.

“The army of monsters is around 7km away from Muspelheim and are heading straight towards us.”

“We are currently at a 2km distance from Muspelheim. The Founder ordered that we should consider this as our last defense line and to desperately protect it.”

That means if the monsters pass this line, they will invade the Fire capital huh. But...

“Just seven kilometers?! Are you telling me the lookouts didn’t notice them until they were so close?!” (Kyouka)

Sis Kyouka, who had accompanied me, asked a question that was basically a reprimand.

Sis had returned to her post as a previous hero, so she has a status on the same level as me in terms of battle strength.

“About that...according to the report of the lookouts, they said that monsters suddenly began appearing from the plain out of nowhere!!”

“The total of monsters is at a glance around 500. Moreover, they are apparently increasing in numbers as they advance. At this rate, by the time they reach the city, there’s the chance that the numbers will have increased to the thousands!”

Sis Kyouka and I were doubting our ears at the report of the fire militant.

Impossible!

Monsters popping out from nowhere? I have never heard of that before!

But until Haine told us about the Mother Monsters being the source of the monsters, it had been a mystery as to where the monsters came from after all.

Trying to measure the Demons with the common sense of humans is a plain waste of time.

“...Understood. What’s the current damage?” (Mirack)

“Fortunately...the place where the monsters popped out(?) from was faraway from the rural area of Muspelheim and there were no travellers, so there hasn’t been any casualties.”

“For now, we have made a number of fire militants fly around in their flying machines to notify of the danger to the settlements. With this, there shouldn’t be anyone mistakenly wandering there!”

Okay, that’s fine then.

Now then, what’s left is to do something about that army of monsters!

“At any rate, it is for certain that the monsters are heading to Muspelheim.”
(Mirack)

Monsters attacking humans is an instinctive nature of them.

“If we allow them to invade Muspelheim, there will definitely be casualties, moreover, there will be many. We will make sure not a single monster reaches Muspelheim. Even at the cost of our life, don’t let a single monster in!!”
(Mirack)

“““““Yeaahh!!”””””

My speech made every single one of the fire militants in the area heated up.
Looks like there’s plenty enough spirit here.

As expected of the best elites in the church -the Ignis Militant corps!

“Well then, we will begin acting! Relay this to all members! We will go forward and confront the monsters!” (Mirack)

“Eh?!”

“But Oneesama, if the other side is heading towards us, wouldn’t it be better to confront them from this defense line?!”

Braidley and Glassfin, from the group of three girls that accompanied us, asked me.

“It is true that in terms of tactics, that’s exactly the case -but the enemy is heading here as they increase their numbers. In that case, the longer the time we take till the confrontation, the more enemies will appear, and it will become more difficult to defeat them.” (Mirack)

“...I see. That’s true.”

Firey seemed to have been convinced by this and the talk advances.

“Therefore, we will go at our fastest speed towards them, begin the battle with the monsters as fast as possible, and wipe them out..... Sis Kyouka.” (Mirack)

“Yes?” (Kyouka)

“Please join me in subjugating them. Let’s not be stingy and settle this battle as soon as possible.” (Mirack)

“Understood! Decisive swift attacks are the specialty of the Ignis Militant corps! Let’s remind the whole world the strength of our roaring flames!!” (Kyouka)

It’s been a while since I have seen this part of her.

The battlefield is where a hero truly burns. That’s how I should be as well.

“Mirack-oneesama!!”

“We are obviously going to accompany you!!”

“...All for one, one for all.”

Braidley, Glassfin, and Firey were breathing roughly, but I changed my view here and...

“You will be staying here.” (Mirack)

“““Eeeeeeh?!”””

I mercilessly said this.

“Why, Mirack-oneesama?! We are Oneesama’s personal guards!!”

“Are we not strong enough to strengthen the sides of Oneesama?!”

“...Lacking in strength.”

They clung onto me as if they were puppies about to be abandoned by their mother.

“Geez, don’t get flustered. Properly use your brains.” (Mirack)

“Meaning?”

This time’s monsters are a mystery and it kind of lets out an unpleasant atmosphere.

“In the first place, monsters popping out from nowhere is unheard of. Until that mystery has been solved, I can’t say anything conclusive about how this battle will unfold.” (Mirack)

“That’s...true.”

“That’s exactly why we should prepare for whatever happens and leave a part of our fighting force in our last line of defense. You people should also join that. And then, prepare for any sudden events and get an understanding of the mystery from a point where you can view the whole battlefield.” (Mirack)

“U-Understood!”

At the very least, they are an understanding bunch.

Right now time is of essence, so it helps that they are obedient.

“Then, please report our plans to Founder-sama through the wireless transmission, and after that, give an urgent message to the other Churches as well, tell them our situation, and if possible, request for reinforcements. But I will leave the decision to Founder-sama.” (Mirack)

“““Understood!”””

The three girls give out an energetic response.

With this, everything that had to be spoken has been done.

Now all that's left is to assault the enemy lines.

"Hey, what are you taking your time for. Let's go, Mirack!" (Kyouka)

Looks like Sis Kyouka is plenty spirited.

"There's no need for reinforcements. By the time the light and water people get here, let's welcome them with a plain filled with the corpses of monsters! With that, we will show them the strength of the Fire Church!" (Kyouka)

When monsters die, they don't leave corpses though.

Oh well, it looks like Sis Kyouka still has her fangs, and as her junior, that's reassuring.

Now then, with the joint assault of the current and previous heroes, let's wipe out the monsters as always!!

Chapter 262: It means death

And so, leaving a number of fire militants and choosing only the quick-footed ones, we lead the charge...by running.

“Prompt decision and quick to carry out. What are you aiming for with this speed-centered formation, Mirack?” (Kyouka)

Sis Kyouka was running parallel to me without losing breath.

She will definitely be the most reliable fighting force in this battle.

“The monsters are increasing their numbers on their own...that’s the part of the report that I am bothered by. There hasn’t been an abnormality like that before.” (Mirack)

Until Haine revealed the existence of the Mother Monsters, it had been a world mystery where the monsters came from. And yet, that mystery was occurring as they approach us.

“But according to the information that the Churches share, those so called Mother Monsters don’t exist anymore, right?” (Kyouka)

“The conclusion reached is that we should think of it in that way.” (Mirack)

Raphael was the first Demon Lord humanity encountered, and it was born in exchange of the life of the Wind Mother Monster. And that was properly witnessed by Haine, Karen, and the others.

If the Demon Lords can’t be born without the sacrifice of their Mother Monsters, in this current state where the Earth, Water, Fire, and Wind Demon Lords are all lined up, it would be weird for the Earth, Water, Fire, and Wind Mother Monsters to not be wiped out because of it.

“Then...it means that if we push through here, there won’t be anymore monsters!” (Mirack)

If that were really the case, the human side would be cheering.

Even if the Demon Lords are powerful, they can’t maintain the life of a race by

themselves. Monsters will end up being a race that will go extinct.

“But I don’t think that things will be going so smoothly.” (Mirack)

“True. The monsters have surely found a new way to reproduce!” (Kyouka)

If that wasn’t the case, there’s no way they would challenge humanity for the superiority of race.

“So that means the answer might be in our destination huh!” (Kyouka)

“Might be, but right now...!” (Mirack)

It is now in view!

Fire element monsters that were covering the wide plains.

Horse type, goat type, bird type, wolf type, monkey type monsters, and there are also types that had combinations of those.

The trait of Fire element monsters is that they have the shape of birds or mammals, and their hair flickers like fire.

“We are getting the first strike! Let’s go, Mirack!” (Kyouka)

“Got it!!” (Mirack)

Sis Kyouka and I sprint without losing speed and charge towards the horde of monsters.

“Fire fist, Barbarossa!” (Mirack)

“Right fire fist, Fernando! Left fire fist, Pelarius!” (Kyouka)

The current and previous heroes prepare with their fire divine weapons. And from there, it was released at the same time...

““[Flame Burst]!!””

Giant fire dragons quickly engulfed the fire monsters.

The monsters were unable to endure the fire we released and turned into ashes inside of it.

We are fire element and our opponents are fire element too; against the same element, the one with the strongest energy wins.

Even so, the numbers are at the very least 500.

Obviously a single round of Flame Bursts wasn't enough. There were many remaining.

We simply sparked the flames of battle.

Only a small part of the enemy lines was burned down, and the fire militants rush to the opened line of the enemy that was created.

"[Heat Knuckle]!" "[Heat Knuckle]!" "[Heat Knuckle]!" "[Heat Knuckle]!"
"[Heat Knuckle]!" "[Heat Knuckle]!" "[Heat Knuckle]!" "[Heat Knuckle]!"

The shouts of techniques reverberate in the area.

The battle has begun.

A jumbled scuffle between humans and monsters was taking place.

"Mirack! This is...!" (Kyouka)

Sis Kyouka and I spearhead deep into the enemy lines while protecting each other's back.

We heroes are basically the core of the army. We have to lead as much as possible and create chaos in the horde of enemies.

"Yeah, every single one of them is a fire element monster! To think that there would be an organized horde of the same element! What's with this family tour?!" (Mirack)

"I don't remember opening a sale with preferential treatment for monsters of my same element!" (Kyouka)

We were burning down all the goats and wolves that came attacking us.

In the end, they are small fry monsters.

Sis Kyouka has fought thousands of them and has never lost to the likes of them, and I have experience fighting giant monsters and Mother Monsters, so I don't feel like I could lose to enemies like this.

"At any rate, right now we have to concentrate on wiping out the enemy! Let's spearhead as we are now and separate the enemy, and then make an U turn just like that and continue to separate the horde even more!" (Kyouka)

“By doing that, the separated monsters can be easily defeated by the fire militants, right?! Understood!!” (Mirack)

As expected of a veteran like Sis Kyouka. She is accustomed to armies of monsters.

“The ones that want to be burned, come at us! The fire heroes are here!” (Kyouka)

Sis!

Right now, I should be the one saying that though!

The moment I thought about quickly wrapping this up and was advancing more and more...!

“Wa?!”

“Uoo?!”

I was suddenly hit by something and was sent flying together with Sis Kyouka. It felt as if I had hit a hot wall.

What was that? What did we impact on?!

“Ouch... What in the world? Uwa?!” (Mirack)

“What’s the matter, Mirack? Did you see anything weird...wa?!” (Kyouka)

Sis Kyouka and I looked in front and stiffened.

Spacing out in the battlefield is something that you shouldn’t do for any reason, but even the battle-hardened Sis Kyouka had made that beginner mistake.

Looking at the one in front of us, no matter what strong expert it is, they would tremble.

A man big like a mountain. We had collided with him and Sis Kyouka and I were sent flying.

It is true that we both are women and we are physically lighter, but even if that’s the case, we are heroes that have been trained, and our rushing strength is not on the level of a normal person, and yet, he repelled both of us at the

same time.

A big body that no matter if you describe it as a mountain or a wall, it still wouldn't be enough to describe it.

From his back there were two burning fire wings spread out.

I know this man. I have seen him once, so I know.

Just remembering it makes fear well up inside of me; the strongest and worst enemy —a Demon Lord.

“Looks like you two are the strongest within this bunch of humans. Well then, let's decide the fate of this battle as the strongest ones.”

From within the group of Demon Lords, he is the fire Demon Lord that's considered to be the leader, Michael.

“Let's put at stake the fate of our race that we both shoulder.” (Michael)

Meeting him meant death.

Chapter 263: Red hot death

Fire Demon Lord, Michael.

One of the evils that threaten this world and their leader.

That guy is standing right in front of us!

“Ah...Aaah...!” (Mirack)

Again...it is that pressure.

That coercive power that all Demon Lords possess. Just by being there, he kills the air around. A heavy and burning feeling.

When we encountered them last time, that pressure had pressed onto my back, and everyone counting me couldn't move or even breathe.

It was the same now; I couldn't endure a few seconds of it and had my knees fall to the ground.

“Agh...Kugh...! Aaah...!” (Mirack)

Even my lips had grown numb and my voice couldn't come out.

Sis Kyouka was in the same state and, as if concentrating on not being crushed, she placed both of her hands on the ground and it took her all to just place strength into them.

“Damn it...Damn it!!!” (Kyouka)

The opponent has not done anything, he is simply glaring at us, and yet, we were already pushed to the brink of defeat.

“Looking at your state, it seems you are not even in the shape to fight. So you people don't even have the right to fight me huh.” (Michael)

Michael looked at us as if we were trash and it was as if he had lost interest.

And then, the tragedy begins.

“Guaaagh!”

“Gyaaaa!!”

Sis Kyouka and I weren't the only ones who had been hit by the pressure of the Demon Lord.

That coerciveness, as long as you are in a certain range of it, no matter how many people it is, it can crush you.

Ironically, the fire militants that had begun to catch up to us entered the effective range of the Demon Lord's pressure and were instantly crushed.

Without his permission, no matter who it is, the moment you enter his domain, you can't even move. But the despairing part came after.

In his domain, only the ones that have permission can move. In other words, his subordinates that are the fire element monsters can still move.

Now that I think about it, I now understand why this horde is filled with fire element monsters. The Fire Demon Lord is the one leading them after all.

But this wasn't the time to think about that...

We can't move and the enemy can do so freely.

The meaning of that is...!

“Guaaaagh!!”

“Ugh?! Aaaaah!”

The one-sided slaughter of the fire militants had begun.

The fire goats and fire wolves jumped onto the fire militants as if they were hungry hyenas and dug their burning fangs into their flesh.

Screams began to reverberate in the battlefield.

It was as if those screams were telling the only one currently standing on two feet here, the Demon Lord Michael, about its effectiveness.

“No good...! This is not good!!” (Mirack)

If this continues, after a few minutes we will be wiped out.

We have to do something!

I am the hero! The fire hero that protects Muspelheim!

That pride is the last bit of energy that fuels my strength.

Hitting my bend knees continuously, I bring back my strength. I somehow managed to stand while trembling, and turn my head to the back.

“Fire fist Barbarossa! Change my will into hell fire!! [Flame Burst]!!” (Mirack)

Flames spread through the ground as if swimming through it, and the monsters that were trotting on the ground with the intent to jump onto the fire militants and cleanly burns them down with pinpoint accuracy.

“Huuaa?!”

“The monsters have been burned down! I am alive!”

“A-As expected of Mirack-sama! Our hero!”

The fire militants are okay!

Of course, there’s no way all the monsters have been burned down by it, but it looks like we have secured temporary safety.

“You people!! Use this chance to get out of the Demon Lord’s range of pressure! Crawl if you have to! At any rate, just get away from the Demon Lord!!” (Mirack)

We had approached the Demon Lord until we ended up right in front of him without noticing.

It means that the pressure domain of the Demon Lord is not that far. If we get away from his territory, we can regain the freedom of our body!

“So you pushed back the pressure huh. Looks like you have the right to be my opponent.” (Michael)

I turned at that voice.

I ended up turning.

That huge body was already standing at a place that covered my whole vision.

“Michael...!” (Mirack)

In order to save the fire militants, I couldn’t pay attention to the most dangerous opponent.

Crap.

By looking right at his eyes, an even stronger pressure began to attack me, and my limbs had completely stiffened.

But the enemy didn't care about that.

After clearly confirming that I was facing him, he swings down his fist.

A big fist like a hammer was approaching me at close range, and because it was taking up my vision, it felt bigger than an actual hammer.

I am going to be crushed by this fist.

I will definitely die if I get hit.

In an instant, many things ran through my mind, but my body didn't react at all. I couldn't move a single finger to defend.

The fire hero died with a single attack of the Fire Demon Lord; that future was about to come when...

"Mirack!"

I was pushed to the side and was sent flying.

When I turned my eyes to see what it was, it was Sis Kyouka.

Sis Kyouka had pushed me from the side.

In exchange, Sis Kyouka was in the place where I was and...the fist of the Demon Lord that was coming down was...

"Sis Kyoukaaaaaaa!!" (Mirack)

Sis Kyouka was crushed by the fist of the Demon Lord in my place.

It wasn't a metaphor, but a reality.

Along with the sound of flesh being smashed and bones breaking, a spray of blood similar to fire colored my vision.

"....."

The Demon Lord pulled back his fist and looked at the result of his own action.

“So there was another one who could have been my opponent huh. That’s a thing of the past now though.” (Michael)

“Sis Kyouka! SIS KYOUKA!!” (Mirack)

I was unable to even pay attention to the Demon Lord in front of me and ran to the fallen Sis Kyouka.

She was covered in blood and all her limbs were facing irregular directions. Her eyes had no light, and the breathing that was barely holding felt as if it might burn out anytime.

...If Sis Kyouka hadn’t covered for me, I would have been the one ending up like this.

Sis Kyouka...!

Why...Why did you cover for me!

As a divine power user, Sis Kyouka is still the one that’s stronger!

On the other hand, Michael was looking at his own hand that was covered in the blood of Sis with interest.

“This is the blood of a human huh..... How filthy.” (Michael)

The blood that was on his hands was soon evaporated with the heat of his own body and disappeared without leaving a trace behind.

“Since ancient times, fire was apparently something used to purify filth. I wonder which one between you or us is the filth that has to be ‘purified’.” (Michael)

The battle had just begun.

Chapter 264: Ferocious endurance

With a single attack, Sis Kyouka had been defeated.

She is barely alive, but if not treated as soon as possible, her life might burn out at any moment.

“Medic! MEDIC—!!!” (Mirack)

I called out for a medic, but I soon gulped my breath.

This is still within the pressure field of Michael. Even if regular folks were to run here, they will simply end up bound.

Treating an injured is more impossible than a dream.

“Sis! You can’t die! Please keep breathing! You can’t close your eyes!!”
(Mirack)

I desperately tried to keep the consciousness of Sis Kyouka that felt as if it were about to go away.

“.....Mirack...YOU IDIOT!!!” (Kyouka)

Sis Kyouka used all her strength to glare back at me.

“Wa?!”

“Did you forget where you are right now?! The direction you should be facing is to the front!” (Kyouka)

!!

When I turn my head as Sis Kyouka reprimanded, a giant man big like a mountain was standing there.

“Michael...!!” (Mirack)

He was already the very representation of despair.

He looked down at us without saying anything. The moment I noticed that, I knew I messed up.

What an idiot I was. It was a given that I would be scolded by Sis Kyouka that’s

on the verge of death.

I had my enemy so close, and yet, I was showing my back full of openings.

If he had swung his fist down at that time, it would have been the end of everything.

“...Why aren’t you doing anything?” (Mirack)

While covering for Sis Kyouka who was down, I face Michael.

Even if it turned into a fight, I don’t have the confidence that I would be able to last a second though.

“I told you already. You have the qualification to be my opponent.” (Michael)

The giant lets out a voice that felt as if it could create a tremor.

“Monsters are the race that should be the rulers of all things. The summit has to show pride. Getting a victory by taking advantage of the weakness of your opponent in an underhanded manner would make you lower than an insect. It isn’t an action you can take pride in.” (Michael)

“?! ”

“Now, my opponent, fight me. In order to judge the fate of our existence, the ones that are my opponents shouldn’t die groveling on the ground but standing. Or will you curl up crying and once again lose the qualification to be my opponent?” (Michael)

“...If I lose it, what will happen?” (Mirack)

“Of course, I will simply step on you as I would with an insect.” (Michael)

How egoistic!

It is humiliating, but I managed to stay alive because of his own sense of self-satisfaction huh.

I decide to provide quick treatment to Sis Kyouka, at least to reduce the bleeding, and then...

“Ignis Militant corps!!” (Mirack)

Without minding, I call to my allies at the back.

“Retreat! Retreat!! Move back to a distance where the pressure of the Demon Lord can’t reach, and confront the other monsters from there! The Demon Lord...” (Mirack)

...The Demon Lord...

I lost my words for a moment there.

Don’t cower here! Let it all out!! In one breath!!

“I will hold back the Demon Lord!! This fire hero Mirack will!!” (Mirack)

Even if those words were a bluff, they served as encouragement to the hearts of the fire militants.

They dragged their bodies back, and orderly get out of the pressure area of the Demon Lord.

“You are prioritizing the fight of the army rather than this one huh. Is that the style of you heroes?” (Michael)

“...A hero exists to protect the powerless people from the monsters. If the Demon Lords are the strongest monsters, there’s no other than a hero to defeat them!!” (Mirack)

I take a battle stance and face this giant.

His pressure continued to attack me, and if I were to let my guard down for a second, I feel like all my joints might break and I would collapse.

But even so, I will stand with the intention of scraping away my lifespan.

If I get out of this alive, after this fight ends, I think I will end up with a head full of gray hair, but that’s still the better case.

Because in this fight, the possibility of surviving is a lot lower after all.

“...You managed to resist my pressure and made the frontline pull back; that was good judgement. But it doesn’t provide an actual solution.” (Michael)

The tone of Michael didn’t show any ridicule or contempt, but there was an overwhelming animosity.

“It is true that if they fall back, they will be able to escape my pressure. Then, if I do one step forward...” (Michael)

And in reality, he did take one step forward.

Doshin!

When his feet touched the ground, a heavy sound was let out and it felt as if the ground trembled.

I unconsciously take one step back at that.

“That’s right. You people will have to take a step back. If you continue doing that, what will happen? In this direction, this so called homeland you should protect is supposed to be there.” (Michael)

It was just as Michael said.

At our back, there’s thousands of people living in Muspelheim.

We have to absolutely stop them from reaching there.

That’s why, in actuality, we shouldn’t be allowed to even take a step back.

In the first place, at my back, there’s something that’s closer than Muspelheim; Sis Kyouka lays there.

It took the fire militants their all to get away from the territory of Michael and they didn’t have the leeway to bring Sis along with them.

I can’t blame them.

That’s how powerful the pressure of this guy is.

In other words, I have no choice but to defeat Michael without making one more step back.

There’s no choice but that!

“Hah...!”

I am the only one here.

The comrades I am always fighting together with are not here today.

Their lands are far away from here. There’s no convenient development like them coming to my help.

.....

Karen, Celestis, Sasae, Hyue; even if we are separated, you give me strength.
Right.

“Fire hero, Katak Mirack! Onwards!!” (Mirack)

There’s only one thing I can do against the Demon Lord that is leaps and bounds superior to me.

Hit him with my strongest attack —using all of my strength.

“Fire fist, Barbarossa! Change my divine power into fire!! A flash that burns stronger than fire!!” (Mirack)

I bend down and pull back my left fist plenty, as if my the fist clad in the fire knuckle was pulling a bow.

After placing plenty enough divine power, I push out my fist at full speed.

The technique I gained from training with Karen and the others.

“[Fire Fist Line]!!” (Mirack)

The beam that was released from my fist was the Fire Fist Line!

The fire divine power that originally holds the strongest area of effect power, instead concentrates the power in a set range and a high temperature attack is possible.

Fire Fist, pierce through the Demon Lord with this!!

“Gugh!”

The Fire Fist that stretched from my fist had struck the chest of the Demon Lord directly.

That much was a given.

Now all that’s left is whether my Fire Fist will pierce or not through his chest that looked as if it were sturdier than a castle wall!!

Chapter 265: Heat of burning blood

The new technique, Fire Fist Line.

A technique I created using Karen's 'Holy Light Line' as reference.

Rather than taking advantage of the fire's trait of increasing the range as far as the output gives, you concentrate it at one point and increase its piercing power.

If we can't burn it all, pierce a vital point.

Pierce.

"PIERCEEEEE!!" (Mirack)

The Demon Lord Michael who had received that 'Fire Fist Line' with his chest had lowered his waist and was resisting it; receiving my strongest attack.

"Gunuuu!!" (Michael)

Stop it.

Don't resist it. Quickly get pierced by it.

From within the techniques I have, this is the technique that holds the strongest offensive power while sacrificing the area of effect.

If this Fire Fist Line is defeated, there's essentially no way for me to defeat Michael.

That's why, don't be reserved and just get pierced already!

"Haah!" (Michael)

My desire was mercilessly broken.

Michael simply pushed his chest out and repelled my divine power, and the fire fist was turned into small sparks.

"It was a pretty good attack." (Michael)

Michael's chest only had a slight burn mark on it, moreover, that burn soon regenerated and was gone.

I lost...!

My brain was filled with that single word.

There's already no method for me to defeat Michael.

"E...Even if humans are eradicated...!" (Mirack)

I say this with a trembling voice.

"Monsters won't be able to rule the world. The Mother Monsters are gone! In exchange for giving birth to you Demon Lords!!" (Mirack)

"Hoh..." (Michael)

"A living form that can't procreate can't become the ruler of nature! The monsters...and you Demon Lords will be the last of your species!" (Mirack)

It was completely the bark of a losing dog.

Now that I have lost the way to defeat him, what came out from my mouth were the barks of a sore loser that couldn't think before speaking. What a pathetic feeling.

"Do you really think that?" (Michael)

Michael spreads out the fire wings that were basically his symbol and fanned them once.

"Guh!"

The hot wind that was created from that single flap made me cover my face to protect it. Moreover, from inside that hot wind there was something inside. Small specs of dust... ashes?

"My mother, the Fire Mother Monster, the immortal bird Phoenix used her own body covered in flames to burn herself and was giving birth to monsters from those ashes." (Michael)

Don't tell me...!

The ashes that were sent flying from the flap of Michael...every ash became

bigger, and in time, take the shape of a living being, and begin to operate.

From each one of the ashes, one fire element monster was born?!

“We Demon Lords have inherited the trait of our now deceased Mother Monsters, therefore, we Demon Lords will be the source of monster prosperity.” (Michael)

Then...the reason for the bothering mystery of the monsters appearing from nowhere in this battle was because Michael was making them right as they went?!

The army of monsters that the Ignis militant corps are desperately trying to stop as well.

Then, this Demon Lord Michael is truly the source of our crisis.

No matter how many monsters we defeat, as long as we don't defeat Michael, this won't make a turn at all!

“I see that you are out of hands. I as well have taken too much time, and if that Kuromiya Haine were to appear, it would trouble me. Let's hurry with my job.” (Michael)

At that moment, I noticed another despairing thing.

The fire element monsters that Michael gave birth to show me were mostly fire bird types.

It is not on the level of the Phoenix that gave birth to Michael himself, but they were falcon and crow types.

Meaning that they are going to use flying!

“W-Wait!” (Mirack)

It was just as I imagined.

They spread their wings and flew high into the sky towards Muspelheim.

This means...they are going to fly over the defense line that the Ignis militant corps set up!

“There's no need for the winged ones to play along with the people stuck on the ground. I will give a quick sky burial to this so called Muspelheim.” (Michael)

“Stop it!!” (Mirack)

I immediately released a [Flame Burst] and try to burn down all the birds that were about to fly away.

But the number of birds that Michael created were many and it wasn't something that only my flames could burn down.

Moreover...

“Uwaaa?!” (Mirack)

“Worrying about something else when you are facing me. Should I call that boldness?” (Michael)

That was close!

I instinctively evaded the fist of Michael.

If it had hit, it would have ended right that instant.

While dealing with this Michael that was impossible to defeat, I had to eliminate all the hundreds of small fire birds!

...No good.

A decent amount were already outside my range and were heading to Muspelheim.

I already have no means to stop them.

At this rate, the people of Muspelheim will be eaten by them.

Did I fail in my duty as a hero?!

But at that moment...!

Gooooon!!

“Let there be hot-bloodedness!!”

A fire dragon bursted far at the back. The fire birds were burned down without leaving a single one behind.

That technique! And that phrase!!

“Master?!” (Mirack)

My Master and the Fire Founder; that big frame that doesn't lose to even the Demon Lord Michael was standing straight with pride.

...No, it is not only Master. At his surroundings, there's uncountable amount of people.

Could that be...! The whole force of the Ignis Militant corps?!

"Mirack-oneesama!"

"We have come to save you. Are you okay?!"

"...Arrived like a flash, resolve everything in a flash."

Even Braidley, Glassfin, and Firey were there.

The people that I ordered to standby at the back, the people that were at the surroundings of Muspelheim and couldn't make it in time for the gathering; are you telling me they have all gathered in this battlefield?!

A concentration of all the power?!

"...That high temperature attack just now was the strongest technique passed down in the Ignis Militant corps, 'Grand Melt'..."

From my feet, I heard a weak voice.

The voice of the heavily injured Sis Kyouka?!

"It is a joint attack between many fire militants releasing fire divine power together. The more fire militants join, the higher the power." (Kyouka)

That attack just now was a 'Grand Melt' that utilized the whole of Muspelheim's Ignis militant corps?

No wonder it had crazy firepower! It can easily wipe out a flock of birds!

"...It is obvious, and yet, when I actually see it with my own eyes, it is aweing. With the joint power of the whole fire militants, they can easily surpass the power of a single hero. Why didn't we notice such a simple thing?" (Mirack)

On top of that, to think that Master who had left the battlefield to become a Founder had joined the fray as well.

Leaving the current Militant General at his side, Master says his usual words.

“Let there be hot-bloodedness!!” (Enou)

That’s right. What am I as a fire hero doing letting my blood freeze in front of a crisis?

My body has hot burning blood circulating.

That burning blood creates fire divine power!!

That’s what our Master had taught us in the end to Sis Kyouka and I.

That’s why, that person always says this...

“Let there be hot-bloodedness!!” (Enou)

“Ignis Militant corps! Begin battle!” “Hero-sama! We will also fight!” “What’s the point of an army if they don’t protect their homeland!!” “Let your blood boil! Heat up your heart!!” “Don’t get cocky, monsters!!” “Watch the stubbornness of humans!!”

The fire militants were plenty hot-blooded as well.

That heat began to infect the blood in my body as well.

“...The monsters that I send ahead have been wiped out huh. What an agile bunch.” (Michael)

And within all this, Michael was indifferent.

You won’t understand.

This heat that resides within us humans.

Let there be hot-bloodedness!

The fight is still not over!

Chapter 266: All-out battle

“Fine.” (Michael)

Michael spreads his wings.

“I will recognize you people as opponents as well. Witness the fearsomeness of a Demon Lord.” (Michael)

And then, the hand of the Demon Lord was directed at the army of people.

I could feel a terrifying concentration of divine power.

Is he planning on hitting them with a high power attack?!

“I won’t let you!!” (Mirack)

I immediately rushed towards Michael.

“All-Out [Flame Burst]!!” (Mirack)

With a fire fist that was charged to the very limits, I punch the hand of Michael that was stretched out.

Not a single wound was left, but the impact deviated the hand to a different direction, and the big fireball released from it was released basically horizontally.

“!”

The fireball flew faraway and lands, and that place was cleanly burned down.

The blast reached all the way here and hit our cheeks.

“Mirack-oneesama!”

One of the three girls calls me.

“We will be shooting ‘Grand Melt’ again! Even if it is the Demon Lord, there’s no way he can endure the ultimate attack of the whole fire militants!”

“But it is a ‘Grand Melt’ that has several hundreds of people! It will take time to concentrate the divine power!”

“...Oneesama, please hold back the Demon Lord.”

I see.

A glimmer of hope was visible in the despair that was covering my whole vision.

“Understood!! Leave the Demon Lord to me!!” (Mirack)

With my strength, I can’t even injure Michael, but if it’s only holding him back, I will show you I can do it!

But please finish as soon as possible!

“Mirack!”

A voice calls out to me.

At the same time, something hit my leg.

The moment I looked, I understood what it was and was shocked.

“Sis Kyouka, this is...!” (Mirack)

It was the right fire fist of Sis Kyouka, Fernando!

“You use it, Mirack. Against that Demon Lord, one fire fist is not enough.”
(Kyouka)

“But...with my divine power, there’s no way I can fill two fire fists!” (Mirack)

“Are you still talking like that? Talent doesn’t matter. The current you can display divine power that’s not inferior to mine.” (Kyouka)

Sis Kyouka...!

“Even if the beat-up me were to hold onto them, it would be a waste anyways..... Oi! Someone!!” (Kyouka)

Sis Kyouka calls for the fire militants as she spits out blood.

“Whoever is fine, come here to retrieve me! Even if my arms and legs can’t move, I can still form divine power! Add my divine power in the ‘Grand Melt’!!”
(Kyouka)

Reacting to that voice, a number of fire militants run here.

Even in that state, Sis Kyouka was still her usual strong self, I have to show guts as well!

While feeling Sis Kyouka being moved away, I equip the fire fist on my right hand.

“Right Fire Fist, Fernando; Left Fire Fist, Barbarossa!!” (Mirack)

With dual fists equipped, I face the giant that possesses fire wings.

“You are quite the kind Demon Lord for allowing us to move Sis Kyouka and waiting until we finished our preparations.” (Mirack)

“Your plan was so transparent that I felt I should show some consideration here. In other words, you think that if you hold me back until that giant fire dragon attack of just now is ready again, you will be able to defeat me?” (Michael)

“That’s how it is. Will you dance with me until the midnight bell rings, prince?” (Mirack)

“I am no prince, I am a Demon Lord.” (Michael)

“In the end, you are still a monster. Not even riding on the joke!!” (Mirack)

I close the distance from the Demon Lord with quick-footwork, and smash him with a barrage of flaming punches that won’t allow him to even breath.

...Okay, the dual fire fists are properly working.

The fire divine power gathered into both of the fire fists were plenty enough to utilize for an attack. But even with that, it couldn’t burn even one layer of skin of Michael.

No, that’s fine. My role is to hold him back.

Now that the hope of ‘Grand Melt’ has appeared, I will be doing my job at full!

“Fool. It is impossible to buy time.” (Michael)

Michael once again extends his hand and fixes his target at the Ignis Militant corps that had already begun gathering their divine power.

“Because by just giving one attack to that bunch of humans there, everything will end after all.” (Michael)

“And I am here to stop you from doing that!” (Mirack)

I connect a hook punch onto the stretched arm of his and that made his arm be directed from the front to the side, and from it, a fireball was shot again to a different location.

“To think that you would repeat the same mistake. As expected of a monster.” (Mirack)

“.....I see.” (Michael)

Even when provoking him, Michael didn't change his expression.

“For a large scale divine power attack, there's the need for at least a second of charge. You don't let that escape from you. It is impossible for you to deal damage, but you can crumble my posture and make me miss.” (Michael)

“That's how it is. You won't be able to attack the fire militants unless you pass through my corpse!!” (Mirack)

“I wonder about that.” (Michael)

Michael's wings were flapped twice, and ashes were scattered about.

“You...!!” (Mirack)

Those ashes were visibly changing into fire element monsters.

Wolves, goats, and tigers.

“As a decorum, I myself will be your opponent. Monsters that are my limbs, devour the weaklings!” (Michael)

This is bad!!

The hundreds of fire beasts passed by me and were heading towards the fire militants.

“Let there be hot-bloodedness!” (Enou)

Master told me to not get flustered.

“Divide in two corps! The frontline will become the wall and confront the monsters! Don't let them touch a single finger of the 'Grand Melt' team!!”

“Defend to the last! We won't let a single one past us!”

“Move back your group! Keep the defense team to a minimum! Don't let the

power of 'Grand Melt' fall!!"

Everyone is fighting.

It is a fight with all the fire militants.

The angry roars of humans and monsters could be heard here and there, and fire that surpassed those sounds was soaring around.

Humans that control fire divine power and fire element monsters; an all-out battle between both sides.

It was truly worthy of calling it a heated battle.

And within that, I was at the very front, fighting against the Demon Lord that with a single hit everything is over.

I was burning more than ever before.

"Everyone! We are all one! All as one under the Fire God, Nova!!" (Mirack)

There's no way we will lose against monsters that have no God to pray to!!

"I wonder about that." (Michael)

The punch of Michael increased in speed.

"This is the end." (Michael)

The uppercut of Michael connected right in the middle of my body. A terrifying heat and power could be felt even before it reached me.

I managed to defend with both of my arms, but the force was too much, I could feel my arms were screaming in pain and felt my legs lifting up from the ground, about to be sent flying...but before that, I had to show my gratitude.

"Gugh! Thanks." (Mirack)

Right at that moment, I told that to Michael.

"Thanks to you, I didn't have to die together with you." (Mirack)

"?!"

My conversation with Michael was cut off at that moment. Due to the punch he had dealt, I was sent flying at the speed of a bullet.

“You intentionally got yourself hit?!” (Michael)

I couldn’t hear what he was saying because it was already too faraway!

My body was send flying all the way to where the Ignis militant corps were.

I was received by a number of fire militants and I immediately shouted.

“Right now!! Release ‘Grand Melt’!!!” (Mirack)

The preparations had ended.

A combined attack with the share of hundreds of fire militants!

Burn down, Demon Lord Michael!!

Chapter 267: A sun of divine power

“Let there be hot-bloodedness!!!”

With the order of the Fire Founder, the lump of fire that was expanded to its very limits was released.

That was the last trump card that had all the divine power of the fire militants that could be collected.

The strongest ultimate attack of the Ignis militant corps, ‘Grand Melt’.

A joint attack that takes more than 2 fire militants to release.

And the one this time has the power of hundreds of fire militants.

If you get directly hit by it, no matter if you are the Demon Lord...

“Oooh!!” (Michael)

This is the first time I have heard the panicked voice of Michael.

That’s good, get even more panicked.

The giant fire dragon made up of the divine power of several hundreds of fire militants also has a large area of effect.

Even if you were to fly away now with those prided wings of yours, you won’t be able to escape it!

“You lost, Demon Lord Michael!!” (Mirack)

I unconsciously shouted this.

This giant fire dragon that has all our power in it was burning down the small fry monsters while on its way...and finally engulfed Michael!

“Raaaaa!!!” (Michael)

It was a direct hit. A clean hit.

Michael was in the middle of the burning red fire. It was as if a sun had been

thrown at him.

No matter if he is the Fire Demon Lord, there should be a limit to how much temperature he can endure.

There's no doubt he has a limit!

""Don't endure! Become ashes just like that!!" (Mirack)

I overwatch the fate of Michael as I basically pray.

I will say it as many times as needed.

Burn just like that and become ashes!!

"Don't underestimate meeeee!!" (Michael)

Suddenly, a strong blast of hot wind attacks us.

My whole body was hit with a heat akin to fire and speed like that of a storm, and everyone in the fire militants including me couldn't take it and shrunk our bodies because of it.

A blast had hit us.

It was a blast that was released from Michael who was supposed to be burning inside the giant fire dragon.

That guy had repelled the giant fire dragon that covered his whole body with a wave of fire he released.

The giant fire dragon became the fuel of the blast and scattered everywhere.

"Impossible!!" (Mirack)

Michael had...! All by himself released a divine power attack that surpassed the joint strength of all the fire militants?!

"...That just now got me a bit a worried." (Michael)

Michael says this while his breathing was rough and smoke came out from his body.

"To think that you would gather the power of hundreds when you couldn't match me alone in order to bring me down. But it is truly a shame!!" (Michael)

The giant says this as if roaring.

“The divine power of I -the Lord of Monsters-won’t be matched by simply a few hundreds of you mere humans!!” (Michael)

The aura that surged out from him had attacked the fire militants in the entire battlefield.

This was even harsher than the blast that occurred a few moments ago.

A number of fire militants had their psyches broken by this and fell to their knees.

“I-It is over!!” “Even an attack with all our powers combined didn’t work!” “There’s already no method to defeat him anymore!” “Let there be hot-bloodedness...”

Losing heart is natural...but even with that...

“Don’t give up!!” (Mirack)

I let out my own roar towards my army —as the fire hero.

“It is true that the attack just now wasn’t enough to defeat the Demon Lord... but it wasn’t as if it had no effect!!” (Mirack)

The fire militants that were about to lose heart were looking at me with a face that was saying ‘what are you talking about?’.

“Look! His body is filled with burns, and his prided wings are disarrayed! Even the fire wave that he used to repel the ‘Grand Melt’ should have expended quite a lot of divine power!!” (Mirack)

It is embarrassing, but my attacks couldn’t even scratch Michael. But an attack with all of us together has finally managed to injure the Demon Lord!

That is a brilliant achievement!!

“Now that it has come to this, let’s present him with as many ‘Grand Melts’ until we collapse! There’s no time to be getting scared. Charge your divine power again! Prepare the next shot of ‘Grand Melt’!” (Mirack)

We haven’t lost. The battle begins from now!

“Fire God Nova is looking over us! We are going to do a battle that doesn’t bring shame to our God. Until we grasp victory in our hands!!” (Mirack)

“Let there be hot-bloodedness!!” (Enou)

Master answered my roar with another roar, and the gathering of divine power began once again.

Now that it has come to this, we will be clashing guts here.

The strongest attack of the Ignis Militant corps, ‘Grand Melt’, obviously expends quite a lot of energy. That’s why it is whether the Demon Lord will fall, or we fall.

Let’s see which one falls first!!

“I will once again go hold the Demon Lord back! I am leaving the rest to you people!!” (Mirack)

I run and charge towards the Demon Lord again.

But...!

“I won’t let you!” (Michael)

“Guwa?!”

I was sent flying as I charged.

Michael had tackled me away and was also charging towards our side.

“I applaud your utmost efforts! But there’s no reason for me to play along with you people all the way! More so in a battle where time is limited to the moment when Kuromiya Haine arrives. I can’t pull my hand any longer!!”
(Michael)

This is bad!!

Michael had broke through me and was going to invade the lines of the fire militants!

“I will bring this to a melee and thoroughly break your lines!” (Michael)

“No! Wait!!” (Mirack)

At this rate, there will be a mountain of corpses in the blink of an eye by the very hands of the Demon Lord!

(What are you doing, you lowlife!)

Eh?!

(Make the group of humans divide to the sides to evade it!)

What's with this voice? No, right now...!

"Fire militants!! Split formation! Evade to the sides!!" (Mirack)

Maybe because of our regular training, the Ignis Militant corps quickly separate to the sides.

From that opened up space, a line of high heat beam blasted in between it.

"What?!" (Michael)

The fire beam hits Michael.

It didn't deal damage, but the Demon Lord had to stop his feet in order to defend.

"A heat beam? Another divine power user in the human side?" (Michael)

But the one lumbering from in between the opened up space of people was not a human.

It was a cow.

(...)

The past Fire Cow Phalaris that was our worst enemy in the past...had appeared in this battlefield?!

Chapter 268: Fire God stands

Fire Cow Phalaris.

That was the giant monster that troubled us in Muspelheim heavily in the past.

That giant frame, skin harder than steel, and the high heat coming from its whole body had changed a whole area into a land where humans couldn't live in.

But that guy had been defeated by Haine and Karen's help, and for some reason, its big body had turned small, to the size of a calf.

On top of that, in a strange twist of events, the Fire Church ended up keeping him as a pet and continues to live there till today.

And yet, why is that Fire Cow Phalaris here right now?!

Wasn't he returned to the Grand Fire Sanctuary by the staff due to the emergency situation?!

"A monster?" (Michael)

The Fire Demon Lord Michael couldn't not get confused at the sudden arrival of someone of his kind in the side of the enemy.

"Moreover, fire element... Brethren of mine, where did you come from? Moreover, you attacked me?" (Michael)

That's right!

The one who stopped the charge of Michael was that heat beam.

It is the technique that Phalaris used in the past when fighting against Haine.

It was a thin beam that can't be compared to the time when he was as big as a mountain though.

If it's in his current size...I can understand...

"What is the meaning of this? I am the Fire Demon Lord. The leader of all fire element monsters; your master. And yet, you attacked me. Don't you

understand the hierarchy?” (Michael) Michael was showing the anger of a king towards Phalaris.

The Demon Lord, and the monsters aside from the Demon Lord; that is most likely the first time hierarchy was created within the monsters.

But...!

(...Hmph, a mere beast is barking.)

Eh?

Again this voice.

(Who is the one that is getting conceited, you big idiot. Who do you think is the one that created you fire beasts? Forgetting your gratitude towards your creator, you evolved arbitrarily, and not only that, you are treating your creator as a vassal? An idiot among idiots. It is so stupid I am shocked.)

What’s with this voice?

I have been hearing it intermittently for a while now. Moreover, it looks like it is holding anger towards Michael.

“Oi, what is this voice...?!” (Mirack)

Unable to endure it, I call the fire militants that were close to me, but...

“Eh? What is it, Hero-sama?”

“As I said, there’s a voice, right? It feels as if it is resonating directly in my head!” (Mirack)

But what came back from this fire militant was a face of confusion.

...Am I the only one who hears this voice?

From what I see, it looks like Michael can’t hear this voice either.

So I really am the only one who hears it?

“Disappear.” (Michael)

The Lord orders the cow.

“A lower form trying to go against its Lord, normally, I wouldn’t let something like that go, but right now, I am currently waging war against a more important

opponent. I don't have the time to waste on dealing with you. Disappear at once. Leave. Before my anger turns into action." (Michael)

(You don't understand, you really don't understand... You pseudo-lifeform with no soul.)

This voice is...having a conversation with the Demon Lord?

(Who is the one who will be judging who? You...or me?)

But Michael didn't react to that voice at all.

It is as if the voice was one-sidedly speaking.

(This tool that was only created to be of use to me has grown quite conceited. Demon Lord, you say? The new ruler of the surface world? Did I ask for you mere monsters to become more than what you were? When did I give you such authority? Acting as you wish with no permission. There's no way I will forgive such insolence!!) This voice held overwhelming anger!

(That arrogance, that arbitrariness; whose the one that angered the superior one? This pisses me off. It really pisses me off. You piss me off more than humans do!)

W-What is this?

Divine power welled up from Phalaris.

(The humans are also an unforgivable impietyful bunch, but...in terms of amount, you are leaps and bounds more. That's why I have stepped in. If you don't understand, I have to teach you. The kind of punishment you receive when angering a God!!)

"Oh?"

"Oooh?!"

"Ooooooooooh?!"

The ones that raised voice of surprise and confusion were the fire militants that were watching from the surroundings.

Their gazes that were looking down were steadily rising up —matching the gigantification of the target of attention.

In other words...the Fire Cow Phalaris had grown giant.

Into the giant and fiendish monster that took authority of the Radona mountain range.

It was as if the dignity of that time had revived exactly as it was before.

“Hoh, you became bigger.” (Michael)

Michael was also one of the people that raised his gaze, but his voice was calm.

“What is the meaning of this?!” (Mirack)

The very culprit of making Phalaris small, Haine, said that he had no ability to fight anymore!

“Oi, this...!” “It is all over now!” “Not only the Demon Lord, even the Fire Cow!”

Voices of anxiety and fear were reverberating in the surroundings.

That is understandable. In the past, the worst enemy of the Fire Church was not the Demon Lord, but Phalaris after all.

It wasn't only one fire militant that was reminded of those hellish days after seeing that big frame of Phalaris.

But...

“Everyone, don't falter!” (Mirack)

I ended up shouting instinctively.

“There's no need to worry about Phalaris. We will be fighting the Demon Lord just like we were! The plan continues! Hurry the next shot of 'Grand Melt'!” (Mirack)

Even I didn't understand well why I said that.

But I felt as if that voice had told me —the cow is currently our ally.

(Now, greenhorn Demon Lord! I will personally teach the young and ignorant you! The harshness of a God's anger!!)

A red light surges from the wide open mouth of Phalaris.

([Big Heat Beam]!)

Chapter 269: Together with the God

“That’s...!”

The strongest attack that the cow had shown in the fight at the Radona mountain range.

When that was shot at the faraway Muspelheim, if Haine hadn’t stopped it from the front, the city would have been destroyed completely.

“Uwaaaaa!!”

“Hiiiiieee! We are going to die!!”

The terrifying energy it gave out had scared a number of fire militants though!

“Don’t falter! Look carefully at where the cow is aiming at!!” (Mirack)

That’s right.

The place where that cow had aimed at with his ‘heat beam’ was only at the Demon Lord Michael.

(DIEEEEEEEEE!!)

The giant lined blaze that was shot from the mouth of the cow had gone straight and hit Michael.

“Guuuuh!!” (Michael)

Michael had received it and was showing more pain than anytime today.

Or more like, the ‘heat beam’ should have enough power to destroy Muspelheim whole, and yet, Michael got a direct hit and hasn’t disappeared. That’s just crazy.

...In this battlefield, there’s already nothing but crazy.

“What is the meaning of this?” “A monster is fighting a monster?” “That cow is saving us?” “Let there be hot-bloodedness.”

That’s what it means.

It is true that that cow has been treated by the people as a popular figure, but a monster is a monster. Everyone thought from the depths of their heart that this nature wouldn't change.

(Don't misunderstand, humans!!)

That voice again!

From where is it coming from?! Who is it?! <Mirack must be a special cookie...>

(Humans and monsters are equal trash. Foolish and haughty people that don't revere me! What's the problem in punishing those kind of people!! That is the privilege of a creator of this world! Isn't that right, Entropy?!)

This voice...

As I thought! Is it really the voice of that cow?!

(Listen you fools! And Entropy, Inflation, Quasar! What's that about humans being great! What about having infinite possibilities! It is obvious that I am the one that is better than everyone else!!)

"This is...!" (Mirack)

I have somewhat understood it now.

Some kind of strange energy is coming inside the body of the cow.

Is that energy what made it possible for Phalaris to return?

It made it that big after having deflated that much?

"That energy...just from where?" (Mirack)

It looks like I am the only one who can see that energy.

Just what in the world is going on with my eyes and ears?!

At any rate, the infinite energy that is entering Phalaris...if I trace its origin...Muspelheim?

It is coming from the city?

That energy stream looks like big branches at a glance, but when I strain my eyes to see properly, thin and small streams joined together and became one

big stream.

Every small thin stream, all thousands became a giant stream. On top of that, if I concentrate, from inside that stream, I can hear the voice of someone?

{Please help us.}

?!

{...Please help us, Fire God Nova-sama.}

This is?!

{Fire God Nova-sama, please grant us salvation.}

{Please provide divine protection to the fire militants that are valiantly fighting!}

{Damn it, if I were ten years younger, I would have been able to fight together with them!}

{I can only pray. That's why...}

{Please save us, Nova-sama!} {Fire God Nova-sama!} {Please grant us salvation!} {Please help the hero and the fire militants.} {Nova-sama.} {Fire God-sama.} {Fire God Nova-sama.}

These are the prayers of people?!

Prayers become the energy to Phalaris and it is poured into him!

Because of that he became bigger and regained his past strength?!

Muspelheim should have notified of the emergency already and the city should be in martial law right now. Everyone is most likely enduring patiently this calamity.

The thing people that can't fight and the people that can't move can do is... only to pray.

(What a self-convenient bunch!)

And once again the voice of that cow.

(Relying on me only at times like this. You only pray to me when you are troubled. You forgot about me when you were soaked by that thing called

ethereal and only remember me when you are in problems!)

That's...!

(And yet...And yet why is it that I am still in this cow form?)

Eh?

(If I wanted to return, I would have been able to do anytime. I could have left this body that has no purpose anymore and return to the honorable heavens. Why did I stay here? Because the food was good? Because the stupid faces of the humans coming to see me everyday were amusing? Was it because the idiot Entropy began to get impatient after these so called Demon Lords appeared?)
“Guuugh!”

...?!

Wait, there's no way!

Michael is walking slowly forward while being hit by the 'Heat Beam' of Phalaris!

“No matter how big you are, there's no way an ordinary monster can defeat a Demon Lord!” (Michael)

Damn it!

“Ignis Militant corps! Hurry the preparation of Grand Melt!! Provide assistance to Phalaris!!” (Mirack)

I also want to assist, but my Flame Burst alone will simply be dispersed by the waves of the 'Heat Beam' of Phalaris and won't reach the Demon Lord.

Am I this powerless?!

(Like hell I will acknowledge it! I won't!!)

And the cow roars along with his 'Heat Beam'.

(It is not only now! The humans always felt my presence! The daily gratitude, the small changes in emotion, the hatred, the anger; there was always a bit of God in them!! No matter the time, there was your God in the heart of the humans! I won't acknowledge it! There's no way I will acknowledge that I have understood this for the first time after involving myself with the humans!!)

What is that cow saying?!

He is getting confused. There's no way he can concentrate on his attack with such a chaotic heart!

It is a given that the strength of the Heat Beam would lower with that.

What are you doing? Get a grip of yourself. You are the only one who can hold back Michael right now!!

"Do your best!!" (Mirack)

I reflexively let those words out.

Faster than my heart could think of it.

"What are you doing?! Get ahold of yourself! Fight on, Phalaris! Don't lose to the Demon Lord!!" (Mirack)

My voice began to resound in the surroundings.

"...That's right." "That's right, do your best!! Please do so!!" "Grand Melt will soon be ready! Stand your ground until then!!" "If we win this battle, I will let you eat a mountain of carrots!!" "Do your best Phalaris! Do your best together with us!!"

The people were sending cheers of support to a monster.

Has something like this ever happened?

But no matter the case, in order to overcome this despairing situation, we have no choice but to do our best together with that cow!

Together with that cow!!

And...the encouragement didn't only come from us.

"Do your best, Phalaris!"

That voice...was way too light and young to be that of a fire militant's.

To the point that it could be called childish.

When I see...there was a child?

At the back of Phalaris where Muspelheim is, there was a child standing there. Moreover, he is not alone. There's several hundreds?!

“What’s with those children?!” “Wasn’t the city made to evacuate?!”
“Someone! Drive away those children!!” “If an attack strays to them, it won’t end with a simple wound!!”

What the fire militants were saying was understandable.

But I soon thought this.

The ones that were the happiest in that city since the time that cow came to the city were the children. Because children love animals after all.

He is slightly more intelligent than normal animals, and this cow that exuded lovability was popular with the children.

And that popular cow is now fighting in order to protect them.

That’s why they couldn’t stay idle and ended up coming all the way here. Are even the children hot-blooded in Muspelheim?!

“Phalaris, do your best!” “Don’t lose!” “Defeat those monsters!” “Phalaris!”
“Phalaris!”

The wish of the children, their trust, was becoming energy and entering that cow.

(I won’t acknowledge it! Like hell I will!!)

And then, Phalaris continues to scream.

While releasing a Heat Beam, for some reason, he shouts in a voice only I can hear.

I don’t know why only I can hear that voice, but there’s something I understand. It is not only the voice of that cow. Deep inside of him, there’s a vibration coming from something that seems to be a soul and it went all the way to me.

That vibration of the soul...felt like emotions.

The emotions of the soul were trembling.

Saying that it is happy.

Happy that he is being prayed by humans, happy that humans are relying on him, happy that humans know of his existence; surprised that having

connections with someone else would create such happiness.

The trembling of the heart of humans was resonating with the trembling of the cow's heart and created a bigger vibration.

A vibration strong enough to make the whole world tremble.

(Like hell I will acknowledge it!!!!)

The Heat Beam increased in thickness and it began to rival Michael's.

"Uoooo!!" (Michael)

Everyone was becoming one and fighting the Demon Lord.

This whole city is...

Chapter 270: The decision of Mirack

But...

Just what is this Demon Lord that is rivaling Phalaris shooting a Heat Beam with the emotions of the people of the city?

In reality, it wouldn't be strange to be turned into ashes the moment it hit you...no, with that firepower, he should have been turned into ashes.

It is an overwhelming amount of power, and yet...why is that guy able to endure such an attack by himself?

Michael had crossed both arms to the front and continued to block the Heat Beam with his whole divine power, but the very fact that he is able to block it is already nightmarish.

Why is he able to repel all the power of us humans all by himself?!

"...Don't get conceited, humans." (Michael)

The voice of the Demon Lord made me quiver.

"And you mysterious beast that takes the side of humans...I have somewhat understood now. Even if you are a monster just like us, you are different from us in foundation; you are something else." (Michael)

He faces Phalaris and says this.

"You people have gathered many numbers...continued gathering..." (Michael)

Michael left a space as if searching for words, and then says...

"I can tell that you are all smashing your power at me as if centering your target. If you come at me with numbers, defeating me shouldn't be difficult, is what you must be thinking. But you can't be further from reality!" (Michael)

At the same time, those words were directed at me?

"If it is about the unification of the race, I am also the same. It has been a hundred years since monsters appeared in this world. In that time, how many

monsters were born and killed?” (Michael)

That’s...

Several thousands? Maybe millions?

“The destination of all those dead monsters...was me! The summit that was born from the death of millions, there’s no way a few thousand of you humans will be able to break through me!!” (Michael)

Oi, wait! You must be kidding!

That Michael is pushing through the Heat Beam of Phalaris as if he were going upstream!!

Not only is he not getting pinned in place by that heat, he is actually pushing it back?!

(Y-You...!)

The distance between the Demon Lord and Phalaris was shortening steadily!

This is bad!

“Master! Is the preparation of Grand Melt still not done yet?!” (Mirack)

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.” (Enou)

Damn it, it will take it a bit more!

The fire militants were divided in two with the arrival of Phalaris, the right-wing and left-wing were each making a Grand Melt, and were preparing to shoot from both sides.

The power will be halved, but we can clam the Demon Lord with two big fire dragons from both sides.

Grand Melt from the sides by the fire militants, and a Heat Beam from the front by Phalaris!

(Guuooo!! As I thought, compensating the ‘Fire God Path’ destroyed by Entropy with just the prayers of humans is just...!!)

“Looks like you are at your limit huh. Then, I will begin the blood fest with you.” (Michael)

In the blink of an eye, Michael had arrived right in front of Phalaris.

Just like in the past with Haine, he was once again being beaten up by Michael.

(Guaagh!)

“Too bad, but there’s not much time I can take on you. I will be crushing you right this instant!” (Michael)

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!

The hammer punch that felt as if it could destroy a castle wall was hitting Phalaris continuously.

With that, he won’t be able to shoot a Heat Beam again. Even if he could, at such close range, it would...!

“Mirack-oneesama!”

“The preparations for both shots of Grand Melt are ready!”

Braidley and Glassfin came to tell me, but with Michael and Phalaris in such close proximity of each other, we will end up hitting them both.

“...Damn it! What am I hesitating for?!” (Mirack)

In the first place, Phalaris should be a hated monster as well, right?!

But it looks like there were others with conflicting feelings like mine, and the Grand Melt that had taken so much effort was still hovering in the air.

(What are you doing, you idiots! Shoot those fireworks already!!)

Eh?

(The small girl over there! Looks like Inflation has done something to you. If you can hear my voice, quickly take me out with him! Burn this conceited fried chicken bastard together with me!)

Then, the owner of this voice is actually you, Phalaris!

But you...!

(This body is just a temporal one anyways! When destroyed, my soul will simply return to its rightful place. I would be relieved to be released from this

noisy lower-bound world!)

!

(Also, this problematic giant man, after punching for two or three more times, I feel like I will sink. Seriously, what strength. It surpasses the expectations of even his creator!)

...!!

What has to be done has been decided.

Phalaris won't be able to hang on any longer. That's why there's one thing that should be done.

I run from my place and rush towards Michael.

"Haaaaaah!!" (Mirack)

Using that momentum, I punch him on the face.

As always, there was no damage, but I managed to stop his pummeling of Phalaris.

"You..." (Michael)

"Have you gone senile, Demon Lord Michael! I am your opponent!!" (Mirack)

I went in between Michael and Phalaris, and push out my fist.

(You...You idiot!!!)

This cow, to think that he had such a rotten tongue.

But don't underestimate humans. Owing you such a big one, there's no way my pride as a human will allow me to bid farewell like this.

As a follower of the Fire God Nova, as someone who fights shouldering the prestige of Nova-sama, there's no way I would act in a way that would lower his name with such a lack of duty and resolve!

".....But well..." (Mirack)

As expected, I will be dying with this.

It has been a chain of unexpected events so I was about to forget it but, the difference between Michael and I is on a level that can't be done anything

about.

I don't think I can last a single instant upfront against him.

(...What a hopeless one.)

Eh?

(I thought I wouldn't be doing as Inflation wanted no matter what, but now that it has come to this, it can't be helped. The preparations for that have already been done after all. That's why you can hear my voice.)

Huh?

What do you mean?

(Inflation must have done something when we were at the Wind capital. It means that preparations for you to receive a part of me have already been done. In that case, just turn already!!)

Turn? Into what?

(Into the Fire God Hero!!)

Chapter 271: Fire God Hero

“That’s as far as you go!” (Michael)

Michael’s tone was filled with certainty of his victory.

“The desperate efforts of humans that surpassed expectations. This was a battle that I also learned a lot from. But I have to finish it already. My victory comes with the eradication of you humans.” (Michael)

I couldn’t say anything.

Instead of an answer, I presented him a punch.

My punch that until now had not been able to hurt Michael’s body even once until now.

Michael must also know that as well, he didn’t show signs of reacting and simply took on the punch with his face.

And then...

“Guaaa?!” (Michael)

The impact made the Demon Lord retreat three steps back.

The Demon Lord wobbled!

“What?! What was that strength just now?” (Michael)

The Demon Lord mutters out of confusion.

“It was completely different from the ones until now! Are you telling me a human has dealt an attack strong enough to push back a Demon Lord?! A mere human?!” (Michael)

“Hoh, that’s unexpected.” (Mirack)

“?!”

My words made Michael react.

“What do you mean by unexpected?” (Michael)

“I just thought that a Demon Lord is actually a different existence from monsters. To think that a monster could bleed.” (Mirack)

“?!”

“Moreover, it is the same red blood as us.” (Mirack)

“?!!”

Michael was letting out blood from his nose due to the punch he received.
Bright red blood from that crushed nose of his.

He must have noticed the wet sensation himself. Michael touched below his nose and was stunned by the red liquid smeared there.

“Blood?! Impossible! I was injured?! I, a Demon Lord that stands as the summit of monsters, has been injured by the attack of a mere human?!”
(Michael)

“That’s reality.” (Mirack)

If you can’t accept that reality, you will be receiving a lot more injuries from now on.

By the hands of this Katak Mirack that has been powered up by something I don’t understand!

(It is not a hard to understand power! By obtaining a part of a God, you have obtained power close to that of a God. Also, you are not a hero! Right now you are an existence that has become one with a God – a God Hero!)

The cow is making a ruckus in the back.

The moment I received something from him, I obtained a power I have never experienced before and it flowed inside my body.

I was pushed by that power and, when I tried swinging my fist, I easily send the Demon Lord flying.

Incredible...overwhelming. This sense of enhancement that felt as if I am not me anymore.

If it is now, I feel like I can defeat even a Demon Lord!

(Even if you have gotten stronger, don't get cocky! T-This is tough! To think that there would be so much burden to the God when the God Hero is activated! It was a system that only the God gets the burden of the human prayer energy?!)

It looks like the cow is quickly losing breath, but it is true that I have now kind of understood —the reason why I got stronger.

The heart power that was being poured into the cow until now, was being poured into me through the cow.

So this is the reason for the power-up.

Right now, I am using the emotions of people and turning them into power.

“Ooooooh!!” (Mirack)

Fire bursts out from my body along with my roar.

It was as if each pore in my body had become a crater.

The bursting out flame stayed around my body like a veil -as if I myself had become fire.

It was already not only in power, even my looks had changed to something that had surpassed a hero.

This is the so called a hero close to a God that the cow talks about? The God Hero?!

With the flames cladding my body, the burst speed I received increased as well. I take one step and the sole of my feet exploded, giving me a boost.

“Guuugh?!” (Michael)

This time, a punch to the stomach.

Being hit, Michael once again does five steps back.

“What in the world is going on?! Why did a human get such a sudden increase in power?!” (Michael)

“I will teach you one thing about humans! Humans are incredibly stubborn!” (Mirack)

Persisting over and over, no matter how dire the situation, eventually this leads to a new path.

We have been saved many times in the past like that.

Along with my comrades, my benefactors, and the many weak people I must protect!

“Right now, my body has an uncountable amount of human emotions flowing in me. Those emotions are changing into power and making me stronger. Demon Lord Michael —it is a strength powerful enough to defeat you!”
(Mirack)

I wouldn’t have been able to reach such power if I was still my past self, who only thought about getting stronger alone.

Karen had corrected my error.

Celestis, Sasae, and Hyue walked together with me.

Master and Sis Kyouka acknowledged a conceited junior like me.

That’s why I was able to get all the way here.

(Please remember that it was because of my help!)

The emotions of the cow were also flowing into me, but there’s a more pressing matter right now.

“Demon Lord Michael, I already won’t lose to you!” (Mirack)

I will win. I must win.

That’s all there is to it.

The emotions of the people —hope, trust, expectations, courage— all of those were changing directly into strength and won’t allow me to fall.

The wishes of the people are passing through me and were directly filling me.

“They are imploring me to defeat you and to save them from peril!” (Mirack)

Their wishes took form, and I will make them reality.

That’s what a God Hero is.

“Mirack-oneesama, incredible!”

“Just what in the world is going on?”

“Let there be hot-bloodedness?” (Enou)

It looks like the Fire Militants in the battlefield also couldn't help but get dumbfounded by this sudden development.

Sis Kyouka, Master, the three girls, and the other fire militants had already finished the preparations of Grand Melt a long time ago and were stiffened just like that.

But that's fine. Just let those emotions boil and watch Katakami defeat the Demon Lord!

Chapter 272: Clash of stars

(What you are receiving as a God Hero is not only the prayers of humans towards a God, but prayers to yourself. The trust and expectations from the people towards you as a hero are poured into your body as energy and turned into power!)

The cow says.

(God and hero, the emotions of humans coming from these two symbols become one! That power is not on the level of a few hundreds! It is on the level of tens of thousands! That's why it is possible for a God Hero to hold power close to that of a God! ...In exchange, the emotions of fear, jealousy, and envy all go to the God instead though...ah, this is tough...)

It looks like he is in pain, but what he means is that while I am in this form, the cow will be in incredible pain.

It also means that he won't be able to maintain it for long.

I have to seal the fight immediately.

"...Fine." (Michael)

One step, two steps, three steps...

Michael walks forward as if recovering the steps he was made to retreat. And then, he was once again in front of me.

He stood tall, covering my whole vision with that big body of his.

"You again seem to be worthy of being taken seriously. On the same level as that Kuromiya Haine." (Michael)

"So you are treating me the same as him huh." (Mirack)

I suppose I will take that as an honor.

"I am the Demon Lord!!" (Michael)

Michael yells.

“Standing at the summit of all monsters, I will open up a new era for monsters, the leader of the demons! The fire Demon Lord that rules over the fire inside of you, Michael!!!” (Michael)

“““?!”””””

All the people there curled their bodies at the voice that was akin to that of an explosion.

The vibrations in the air caused by his voice felt as if they were hitting my cheeks.

Well, not felt, it literally did.

And everyone there thought this ‘we knew a long time ago who this guy is’... that’s why we are all getting confused.

Why is he stating this again now when we already know that?

“...”

I soon understood why.

“...I am Katak Mirack. The fire hero chosen by the Fire Church, Katak Mirack!!” (Mirack)

I have not introduced myself to Michael once yet.

Because of my own feeling of weakness, I didn’t have the qualification to.

The reason why Michael introduced himself was due to the most basic etiquette when asking the name of the other party.

I have finally gained the qualification for my name to be reminded by the Demon Lord.

“Then, Katak Mirack...” (Michael)

The Lord of burning wing flames speaks my name for the first time.

“...I will crush you.” (Michael)

“Wrong. I will be kicking your ass.” (Mirack)

I have finally been recognized as a proper enemy of the Demon Lord Michael.

The now serious Michael placed both of his hammer-like arms together

directed at me.

“Hmm!!” (Michael)

Along with a rise in divine power that was akin to a subterranean rumbling, his body began to have a visible change.

The fire wings of Michael -that are basically his symbol-became thin and long to the point that they didn't retain their original form, turning into something like that of a fire sash, coiling around both of the arms of Michael.

The right and left wings wrapped around his respective arms, and his steel fists had now become burning fire hammers.

I thought that the fire wings of Michael were wings clad in fire, but that wasn't the case; it is fire itself that had taken form into wings. That's why it can show such a drastic transformation.

“...For us Demon Lords, strength is everything. This technique that uses my wings, which are a mass of divine power, can be called the ultimate technique of this Demon Lord Michael.” (Michael)

Michael says this as he points out his arms covered on his fire wings.

“I was thinking of using this ‘Phoenix Hammer’ on Kuromiya Haine only, but you have done well in making me use them on you.” (Michael)

“...I see. If you are going to be welcoming me so extravagantly, I will have to give you a fitting present as well... Ignis Militant corps!!” (Mirack)

I call to my comrades that had parted to the sides and were watching over the battle.

Sorry, but it looks like I will be having you help me this once.

“Shoot the readied Grand Melt at me!!” (Mirack)

“Haah?!”

“What are you saying, Mirack-oneesama?! Are you insane?!”

Hearing this, Braidley and my other juniors were doubting their ears, but it is a given. In the first place, Grand Melt is the strongest destructive attack of the Ignis Militant corps.

I am telling them to throw that giant fire dragon that was made with the divine power of all the fire militants for the sake of defeating the Demon Lord.

You would think I am being suicidal.

But...

“It is okay. Just do as I instructed!” (Mirack)

I assured success to my comrades that I have fought together with in this desperate battle.

“Let there be hot-bloodedness!!” (Enou)

The first one to follow me was my master, the Fire Founder.

As expected of Master. He trusts in his disciple more than anyone.

The giant fire dragon was shot along with the order of the Founder.

““[Grand Melt]!””

The Ignis Militants had separated in two with the arrival of Phalaris, and made a Grand Melt each to hit Michael from both sides. The two big fire dragons that were coming at me from both sides, I receive them with both of my arms.

“Right Fire Fist, Fernando! Left Fire Fist, Barbarossa!!” (Mirack)

Both arms that received the big fire dragon burned vigorously, and I soon finished controlling the fire that my comrades made.

“Oooh!”

It is because I am their hero that I was able to easily receive their power.

“On top of that, add the power of the God Hero to it, and...utilize the strongest Flame Burst I can release.....I call it Pleiades Burst!!” (Mirack)

With both of my arms that have giant flames rivalling that of Phalaris, I put them together facing Michael.

These flaming arms that drew the shape of two buffalo horns.

This posture of placing both hands together and directing it at your opponent, it was the very same for both of us.

“...I will decide this with this one attack.” (Michael)

“Stole those words right out of my mouth!” (Mirack)

The pair of wings of Michael, my two horns; which one will be breaking first.
This is the time to decide that.

We both at the same time charged at their opponent.

“[Phoenix Hammer]!!!” (Michael)

“[Pleiades Burst]!!!” (Mirack)

Both fists clad in fire clashed left and right, and become hellfire.

A fierce hell of sweltering heat rose up to this world of the living.

Chapter 273: Hellfire

The ultimate technique of the Fire Demon Lord, Phoenix Hammer; the Pleiades Burst that has my everything.

The whole power of a demon and human had become fire and mixed.

It became a fire that could burn down the whole world and exploded.

“Kyaaaaa!!”

“Mirack-oneesama!!”

“...Incredible explosion!”

From the outside of the explosion, the fire militants rise their voice that were practically screams.

Even if it were just the waves of the explosion, they probably hold a power similar to that of a regular Flame Burst.

I don't think they are completely okay after that, but I can only pray they are.

I truly had no leeway to mind that.

I was basically in the center of the explosion and had done a direct clash with Michael after all.

“Kunuuuuu!! Haaaah!!” (Mirack)

I was within this high temperature that felt as if I would evaporate by simply standing there. I am able to stay alive in here thanks to the unbelievable power of the God Hero power-up.

Even with that, I felt like my consciousness would fly by sheer heat.

And in reality, I was about to lose my consciousness for a moment there unable to resist the heat, and at that instant, I would have lost my God Hero form and be cinders by now.

I release divine power to the point that my head is going crazy.

I had no other choice but to do it.

My most fearsome enemy, Michael, was glaring at me as if he were an evil spirit.

We both are using all the divine power we have remaining to change it into fire and clash it with each other.

What's scattering to the surroundings was the heat that had lost its direction and was spilling. It was truly to the word waves. Yet, with only those waves, the earth turned into magma, and the heated air rose up an atmospheric current on the level of a tornado, and while burning dry grass and insects, it increases in speed. On top of that, it wasn't only for a moment, the explosions continued as long as Michael and I continue to output divine power.

We were both desperate.

No matter how hellish of a problem we bring to the surroundings, the moment the power tilts to one side, the outpushed side will receive all the heat and be burned into cinders.

That's why Michael and I had no choice but to push at our highest output.

The wing of the immortal bird and the horns of the cow; a clash between human and demon with their existence at stake.

Possessing the same fire element and strangely having the same stance as they clash their ultimate techniques.

We completely different races were for some reason fighting in such a similar way right now.

"...I understand now." (Mirack)

"Huh?" (Michael)

I speak while I was releasing my divine power at full strength.

I was impressed by how my voice travelled well even within this high temperature, but maybe it is because we are clashing our fists and it is travelling through there.

At any rate, Michael reacted.

"The biggest difference between you and me! I am fighting together with

everyone. You are alone.” (Mirack)

“Did you go crazy in the face of death? What nonsense are you saying in such an extreme situation!” (Michael)

Michael answers back with that stupidly straightforward personality of his. But there’s no way he would understand what I am trying to say.

“I as well thought I had understood it, but thanks to fighting with you, I have once again actually felt it; that’s what I am trying to say. I too was alone in the past. I thought I had become stronger by myself and tried to stand at the summit where it is not possible to stand on your own...” (Mirack)

The me at that time couldn’t notice that such a thing had no point at all — until the day I reunited with Karen and met Haine, that is.

“That’s because humans are weak. The strength of a single human is limited. Even if that human is the strongest alone, what’s the point of it? Michael, when I met an existence like yours that was practically on a different realm from us, I thought that we would simply be crushed.” (Mirack)

“That’s right. We monsters are a race that’s even tougher than humans. That’s why the rulers of the surface world will be changed into being the monsters—!” (Michael)

“Wrong!!” (Mirack)

I cut off the words of Michael.

I am not trying to say that. It is exactly because he can only see my words like that that monsters are not worth of being the rulers.

“For us humans, what’s most important is not to get stronger ourselves, but to get stronger with everyone. I thought I understood it. That’s why I have been fighting together with my comrades Karen, Celestis, Sasae, and Hyue. But it looks like I was still lacking in understanding.” (Mirack)

Today I was made to realize that.

That’s because, at this moment, I have become stronger by obtaining the strength of the whole Muspelheim after all.

That’s what a God Hero means.

If humans intended to, it wouldn't be only together with your acquaintances and comrades, you can become stronger together with every living being in this world!

That's why I -the fire hero, Katakami...

"I won't lose to you! Michael, no matter how strong you are, against you who is alone, there's no way the miracle created from the connections of humans will lose!!!!!" (Katakami)

"Stop the barking, you lowly human!!!" (Michael)

We both released our maximum output fire, and yet, both still increased radically in firepower at the same time.

Michael and I were enveloped inside the hellfire we released that was on the level you would wonder if it would burn down the whole world...and we both disappeared into it.

The hellfire had dispersed.

The plains outside of Muspelheim, that had become a battlefield, right now had turned into scorched earth that didn't have a single shadow of its past self.

What's at the ground was only gray earth still letting out smoke.

Far at the outside, there were still the Ignis Militant corps flabbergasted at the battle they witnessed.

They retreated quite a few ways back from their original position.

They had to get at least that faraway from the battle of the God Hero and Demon Lord or they would be dragged into it.

And then...

"Hah... Hah...!"

"...!"

We were alive.

I was alive...and the Demon Lord Michael as well.

We were right in the middle of such a vicious hell, and yet, it was surprising that both sides didn't just turn into ashes.

But there's no way we wouldn't be injured from that.

My whole body was battered and my divine power has burned out. Soot was covering my whole face, and the tips of my hair are letting out burning sounds.

Phalaris had collapsed at the far back and his legs were twitching.

The burden of God Hero must have pushed him to his limits.

Looks like it will be difficult to continue the God Hero form any further.

And Michael was in the same state.

His dignified figure was nowhere to be seen anymore, and his prided fire wings felt like they would burn out at any moment.

His breathing that moved his shoulder and chest heavily were proof of his exhaustion.

He has no strength left to fight. Just like me.

".....This is as far as it goes it seems." (Michael)

Michael spoke his opinion while breathing roughly.

"Being exhausted to this extent, even if I were to defeat you, I wouldn't have the strength to destroy the human city. I also took way too much time. It wouldn't be strange for Kuromiya Haine to come at any time now." (Michael)

Now that he mentions it, did the wireless transmission that we sent to Apollon City properly arrive?

If they went on their flying machine, they should be here anytime now.

"I will be leaving. I thought you people were weaklings that were not worth attention, but to think I was left in this state. It is my defeat today. Very well done." (Michael)

...Even when he is that beaten up, he still talks all high and mighty.

If you have been cornered, at least get a bit agitated, damn it.

It makes it even harder for me to get confidence in defeating you.

“But Katakami Mirack -an opponent of mine without doubt-I will advise you. I have to deny only one thing you said no matter what. I can't leave this place without doing that.” (Michael)

“...What is it?” (Mirack)

“I am alone...is what you said, right? And that you have many comrades, thus, humans are the better ones..... That's wrong. I won't forgive humans looking down at monsters with such a reason! That's because I...!” (Michael)

The Demon Lord Michael howls.

“I am not alone!!” (Michael)

Chapter 274: Looking up the ground

“I am not alone.” (Michael)

Saying this, I felt as if I saw the emotions of Michael fluctuating on his face.

Michael and I were both in tatters as we glare at each other in this wasteland.

“We monsters originated a hundred years ago. At that time, my mother Phoenix didn’t even have her own will and was simply a device to single-mindedly make monsters.” (Michael)

“The so called Fire Mother Monster huh.” (Mirack)

“That’s right. Thousands to millions of monsters were born in that span of a hundred years and then disappeared. And the one who was born in this endless cycle of repetition was me.” (Michael)

Be born and die; die and be born.

At a glance, it looks pointless, but it provides development to the race.

That’s something humans have experienced as well.

Monsters also obtained self-awareness in what was thought to be an endless cycle, and as a result of questioning their own existence, the existences called Demon Lords were born.

...That’s right, Haine said this.

“Over a million repetitions of the life and death of demons, at the end of that void path, there’s me, the Demon Lord. You can’t speak of me without the ones of the past. Therefore, I am not alone!” (Michael)

“Are you saying you are the very personification of the monsters that have been born and died until now?” (Mirack)

“That’s right! Thus, I am the one to stand at the top of monsters. I have inherited the ability to make monsters from my mother! I can make new comrades from now on as much as I want! Therefore, I am not alone!”

(Michael)

The Demon Lord roars.

“We are by no means inferior to humans!” (Michael)

“...”

It is just as Michael says.

The past that the predecessors have paved; for us humans, that’s a priceless treasure.

History, knowledge, morals; that’s something you can only obtain thanks to the efforts of the past. The great people of the past. What they have left behind is what created the ethereal civilization and the five Grand Churches after all.

As a human, I couldn’t deny the past paving that Michael talks about.

“But even with that, I still reject you. No matter where you go, you are alone.”
(Mirack)

“You want to mock me no matter what?!” (Michael)

I could hear even from here the grinding of his teeth.

I continue speaking without minding.

“That’s because monsters are still missing something. Something that humans have and monsters don’t. As long as you monsters don’t get that, no matter how many you prosper in, no matter how much past you accumulate, you won’t be able to obtain connections.” (Mirack)

“And what is that? What is it that you say we are missing? Go ahead and say it!!” (Michael)

Michael already didn’t have any of his previous composure.

Even though he didn’t lose his dignity even when he was cornered to the very limits.

“...A heart.” (Mirack)

I answered.

“Living beings will recognize people aside from themselves and worry about

them, for that, there's the need of a heart. It is true that you Michael have obtained self-awareness. But you have to evolve that self-awareness into a heart. Without a heart, you won't be able to take over humans!" (Mirack)

"Heart, you say?!" (Michael)

Michael was heavily confused.

"What's a heart? What's so different from having self-awareness? We monsters have already reached the point where we can mass-produce ourselves and act on our own. Isn't that a true to the word living being?!" (Michael)

"Then, I will show you what a heart is!!" (Mirack)

I slowly approached Michael.

He was flustered by this and was cautious in whether he should be on guard to counterattack.

Because of that, he allowed me to approach to a point where my fists could reach him.

(...Oi, cow. Lend me your power once more.) (Mirack)

(...Eh? Well, uhm, please let me rest for a bit more!)

(I can't afford that right now.) (Mirack)

God Hero mode, activate!

(Guugh?!)

Bam!

My fist hits Michael.

With an uppercut, his guard was thrown up and Michael as well was blown up.

Right as the hit connected, I deactivate the God Hero mode to cut off the burden on Phalaris.

""""Eeeeeeeh?!""""

Looks like the Ignis Militant corps in the surroundings were surprised by my

violence.

Everyone was looking at Michael who was soaring high in the sky.

Michael continues going up.

As expected of a punch in God Hero mode.

He flies to a point that it might even reach the clouds.

The speed he was flying at was quite high as well, so I could even hear the air being cut as he went up.

Everyone must have noticed the Demon Lord that was going through the sky and beyond.

After a while, Michael falls dragged down by the gravity. It made a big sound, but he managed to make a clean landing down on his knees.

As expected, even when tattered, he is still a Demon Lord.

“...How’s that? Did you see the heart?” (Mirack)

“.....Don’t mess around.” (Michael)

His voice trembled even more in anger.

“You suddenly punched me. What are you talking about heart in that? As I thought, you really are mocking me. Mocking this Demon Lord, you better be prepared to be crushed to pieces!” (Michael)

“Fine, just try saying it. What did you see at the top of the sky?” (Mirack)

With that question, the battle aura of Michael, that was about to explode, reduced slightly, and he answered.

“What I saw when I was punched up into the sky was the human city that’s close by. The thing you people call Muspelheim..... I was able to take a peek at it from above. The humans living there, and even their faces.” (Michael)

Looks like the Demon Lords have good eyes as well.

“Everyone was looking up. The people in that city probably already know about my march. There were people pale blue in fear, there were people bright red in anger towards me, people that were confused at what was happening,

and people who simply felt curiosity at this novelty. Everyone was looking at me soar high in the sky, but their faces were many. Their expressions as well.”
(Michael)

“That’s the heart.” (Mirack)

I said.

“Even when they were looking at the same direction, what they felt was different for each person. That’s why the expressions in their faces become different as well. It is because they live their own life and accumulate their own experiences that the heart they hold is different for each person as well. That’s a human!” (Mirack)

It is because they hold a different heart that they are able to understand each other at times and there are times when they will enter disputes. But when they overcome that, it provides a firm connection and strength surpassing that of cooperation.

Just like how it was for Karen’s group and me.

“Demon Lord Michael, what about you guys?” (Mirack)

“...Kugh.” (Michael)

“The fire monsters you made may be facing the same direction, but are they able to feel and think different things? No, they can’t. The expression of monsters is always the same. It is the proof of a heartless demonic beast.”
(Mirack)

Monsters are still beasts pushed by their natural instinct that is to ‘attack humans’.

Even if they have the ability to decide on things, they can’t put emotions to those decisions.

Feelings and logic; with a lot of factors affecting actions, it puts color, meaning, and draws a raw story. That’s where you find the heart of humans.

Everyone thinks different, but even with that, they must all live together...or there wouldn’t be civilization, culture, and history!

Monsters are still far from that realm!!

“...Shut up.” (Michael)

Bam!

This time, my body was the one that shook.

It was practically a surprise attack. I was unable to avoid it and was sent flying.

In my case, different from Michael, I was send flying parallel to the ground.

For a normal body, that punch would have destroyed it immediately, but right before it hit me, the God Hero mode had been activated on its own.

(Don't space out, you idiot!)

That cow saved me?

That guy should have been an enemy in the past, but he is saving me quite a lot today.

And...the Demon Lord looked like the representation of anger.

It looks as if he can't control the anger that's welling up inside him.

“Shut up, shut up, shut up, shut up!!” (Michael)

He should be in tatters, and yet, his divine power was increasing.

I can't lose either. I once again activate God Hero mode. If I don't do that, we are definitely going to die here.

Michael came punching at me pushed by his raging emotions.

Throwing away all tactics and technique.

"SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP
SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP
SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP!!"
(Michael)

I answered that shout from his heart.

“I will shut up. There’s already no need for words anymore, as you already understand.” (Mirack)

Chapter 275: The heat is transmitted

We were punching each other.

Michael and I; fire hero and fire Demon Lord.

Leaving aside all those titles, right now we were simply being moved by the raging emotions inside of us and clashing them —using our fists.

We didn't defend and purely hit the opponent's stomach, chest, face, as we wanted.

Defending would be rude.

Because there were emotions gathered in those fists.

Evading them instead of receiving them would be a lack of decorum.

And then, after maybe a hundred exchange of punches...two hundred...three hundred...five hundred...a thousand.....

...

“Mirack-chan!”

I felt light-headed.

I don't know how much time has passed.

At any rate, I think I heard the voice of someone calling me.

I felt as if the voice came from somewhere incredibly far, but it had called me back to consciousness, and I quickly open my eyes.

When I did, I noticed Karen was standing right at my side.

The light hero and my friend.

“Karen?! Why are you here?!” (Mirack)

Shouldn't you be at Apollon City protecting it as the light hero?

Even if it is close, why is she in Muspelheim?!

Looking around, we were still at the burned outskirts of Muspelheim.

“What are you saying?! We received an emergency call from the Fire Church and I came as soon as possible to assist in the notice of a Demon Lord raid!!”
(Karen)

...I see.

That’s right. She wouldn’t hesitate for a second in rushing to help her comrades.

That’s exactly how my friend Karen should be.

...Yeah, I might even fall for her.

“Sorry, Karen. As a friend and as the hero representing the Fire Church, I appreciate the support of the Light nation.” (Mirack)

“This is not the time to be saying something like that!!” (Karen)

Eh?

I was thinking of increasing my points with Karen by doing a heartfelt thanks, and yet, she wrapped it up with ‘something like that’.

Isn’t the Karen of today a bit heartless?

“Don’t you understand in what kind of state you are in right now, Mirack-chan?! Here, look!” (Karen)

Saying this, Karen takes out a pocket-mirror from out of the armor she is wearing and gives it to me.

To think she would have a pocket-mirror even in her battle garment, as expected of Karen, her feminine qualities are high. But the moment I saw what was reflected in the mirror, I was blown away.

“Hiih?! Monster!” (Mirack)

“That’s how you look right now, Mirack-chan!” (Karen)

The one that’s making a surprised expression inside the mirror had her whole face swelled up; a mysterious lifeform.

Her whole face is so swollen that it was basically elliptic-shaped, and looked like some sort of bad tasting fruit.

I don't want to believe it, but Karen is saying so as well, and taking into consideration that I am the one who is looking straight at the monster in the mirror...

"This thing is me?" (Mirack)

Is my face all swollen up because of being punched too much?

Now that I think about it, my whole body stings, and my legs were losing strength and swaying.

Karen supported me right as I was about to fall, so I somehow managed to stay up.

"Sorry, Karen!" (Mirack)

"It is fine already. More importantly, what happened? What happened to make Mirack-chan look like a meatbun?" (Karen)

A meatbun, you say!

I exchanged punches with that Demon Lord Michael! And punched, punched, punched...

Right, what about him!

My memory was cut off while I was exchanging punches with Michael. What happened to him? I have no clue at all.

I hurriedly look at my surroundings.

When I did so, I saw the members of the Ignis Militant corps watching over us from afar.

That there's Aurora Knights mixed in with the group must be because they came together with Karen.

But why are those guys watching over from afar?

To think that the only one who would come to me when I am this beaten up was Karen...could it be that I am not popular? The moment I felt hurt by it, I understood the reason why they couldn't approach.

I finally direct my gaze to the front.

“Michael. Oi, Michael.”

“How troublesome. What a shameful look were you turned into by a mere human.”

There, Michael was in the same state as me -all beaten up.

On top of that, at his side, there was a tree human and a full-armored guy; or so to speak, two more Demon Lords.

“Those guys, if I remember correctly...!” (Mirack)

“The Earth Demon Lord, Uriel, and the Wind Demon Lord, Raphael...” (Karen)

Leaving aside Michael who has exhausted all of his power, the only one who can resist and approach all the way here under the pressure of the newly arrived Demon Lords was Karen.

Michael was reactionless at the call of those two for a while.

“...?! Uriel, Raphael?! You guys, why are you here?!” (Michael)

“That priestess of Lucifer-sama said ‘hurry and retrieve Michael’, so we hurriedly did.” (Raphael)

“And now that we are here, what’s with that look of yours? You who is supposed to be the leader of the Demon Lords, to think that you would have so much trouble against a human.” (Uriel)

The expressions of the two Demon Lords was that of scorn towards their brethren.

As I thought. These guys are not people worthy of respect.

“Well, we are both equally on the path of human eradication. Since we are already here, I don’t mind helping you out.” (Uriel)

“Right. It looks like that scary Kuromiya Haine is not here. How about we three slaughter all the humans here at least?” (Raphael)

?!

What Uriel and Raphael said nonchalantly made our sense of danger rise.

I confirm the state of the cow at my back.

(P-Please spare me already!)

No good.

The God Hero mode has been used over his limits and the breathing of the cow is already feeble.

It is visible that anymore God Hero transformations will be impossible.

Are you telling me we have to fight two unhurt Demon Lords in this kind of state?

“STOP IT!!!” (Michael)

But Michael’s roar flew towards those two Demon Lords.

As if the Earth and Wind were rabbits being roared at by a carnivore, they both falter.

“I won’t allow you to put a hand on them!! They are my opponents! If you are going to kill them without my permission, I will crush you guys first!!” (Michael)

“Oh, scary~!” (Uriel)

“What’s with you? We are offering you help here. No need to shout that loudly, you know.” (Raphael)

Uriel and Raphael were confused by the unexpected rage of Michael.

Or more like, I am surprised as well.

“There’s one thing I understood from today’s battle. In order for us monsters to take the spot as rulers, I thought that it was fine to simply defeat the humans. But that wasn’t the case.” (Michael)

““?””

“In order for monsters to become the new rulers of the surface world, there’s still one thing we are lacking. I don’t understand what that is, but we have to obtain it. That’s something that was made clear today...in today’s fight with my opponent, Katak Mirack.” (Michael)

Michael’s gaze was directed at me.

The Fire Demon Lord had his whole face swollen just like me.

I can't lack in decorum.

For some reason, I felt that way and glared back straight at him.

"I won't take back my previous statement. I will be departing for today."

(Michael)

"..."

"But I will return for sure. Katak Mirack, for me, you are a great opponent. The more I fight you, the more I can learn. In order for monsters to stand as rulers, what is it we have to obtain? I feel like I will get that answer as I continue to fight you." (Michael)

"Fine. I will fight you as many times as you want." (Mirack)

I answered.

"...But, if you are going to come again, at least obtain the ability to get jokes. As a Demon Lord, your majestiness would increase with a catch-phrase of some sort. When it comes to that way of using your intelligence, you are still far from reaching humans." (Mirack)

"....."

When I said that to make fun of him, Michael went silent for a while and straightforwardly said this.

"...Let there be hot-bloodedness." (Michael)

Saying this, Michael turns back as if he was satisfied and leaves.

Karen, the people there, and me dumbfoundedly saw off that back, and even the Demon Lords were the same.

Chapter 276: After burning out

Just like this, the Demon Lord Michael left.

For a moment there, I thought the destruction of Muspelheim and the fall of the Fire Church was unavoidable, but now that things are over, the both of them are okay.

Damages were low and we didn't allow monsters to enter the city.

We splendidly managed to repel the Demon Lord Michael.

Though, there was a crazy amount of injured in the Ignis Militant corps.

Especially Sis Kyouka who covered me in the middle of the fight. Her injuries were the most severe and was immediately sent to the hospital, but with the many burns and fractures, she was made to rest.

Regarding the bone fractures, the bone specialists in the Earth Church will be taking care of it; the burns will be taken care of by the healers of the Water Church.

We had to invite them here to provide treatment, but it will still be hard for her to return to the battlefield anytime soon.

Aside from that, there's also many fire militants injured in trying to clean up the monsters Michael created. On top of that, due to shooting Grand Melt multiple times, most of the fire militants were down from exhaustion.

Grand Melt is originally an ultimate technique and it is not the kind that leaves energy after.

Mostly everyone in the fire militants had wrung out all their divine power, and were literally unable to move a single finger anymore.

The ones who carried us back were Karen and the Aurora Knight corps.

The Aurora Knights came rushing from Apollon City after the call for reinforcements, but they arrived at the battle practically at the end of it. Even so, it really helped us out that they took the job of cleaning up after instead of the fire militants.

If they weren't here, a number of deaths would have come out from being late in treating the injured after all.

And so, I was also...

"Mirack-chan, are you okay?"

In my room at the hospital directly managed by the Fire Church, Karen asked.

The Aurora Knights have finished most of their relief job and were about to return to Apollon City, so she has come here to give her goodbyes.

"Of course I am okay. I am the fire hero, you know. I am the strongest within the fire heroes." (Mirack)

"Fufufu, right." (Karen)

This kind of pride works as a joke between Karen and I now.

In reality, I had uncountable injuries in my whole body, and the burden to my body when in God Hero mode was not something that could be ignored. The doctor prohibited me from training for a while.

"But I was surprised. To think that Mirack-chan became a God Hero as well. Thanks to that, you were able to fight back the Demon Lord, right?" (Karen)

"Well, yeah. If not for that, we wouldn't have been able to turn away Michael. We would have all been slaughtered and Muspelheim would have become a barren land." (Mirack)

From what I heard, Karen had also succeeded in turning into a God Hero.

When a hero receives a part of a God and powers up by it, they become a God Hero. That power is overwhelming, and when I wasn't in that form, I couldn't injure the Demon Lord at all, but after, I was able to fight on even grounds against him.

I understand how big a God Hero is after actually becoming one.

That power without a doubt will become our trump card against the Demon Lords. It can't be missing.

But...

“Why was I able to become a God Hero?” (Mirack)

That was a question I couldn't not ask.

It is not as if I did any special training to become a God Hero, and it is not as if I passed a trial or anything. I didn't do any ritual either.

And yet, in a really abrupt manner, as if it had been jammed into me, I obtained power that was several times higher than anything until now.

For the Fire Church that treasures training the most, I feel as if I cheated in some way and it doesn't let me calm down.

“It is the help of the Gods, Mirack-chan!” (Karen)

Karen says shiningly.

“The five Gods that we revere have caught onto the danger of the world and have provided us with the power to fight it back! As I thought, the Gods are really looking over us!” (Karen)

“...”

Karen innocently prided at the miracle that is the God Hero form, but I had a different impression of it.

Before becoming the fire God Hero, there was a voice resonating directly into my head that only I could hear.

That voice, looking at the situation, was without doubt from the Fire Cow Phalaris.

After the battle, he returned to his small size and was sent back to the hut of the Grand Fire Sanctuary.

Maybe because he pushed himself when fighting, or because his injuries still hurt after being pummeled by Michael, he is sleeping all the time without any energy, but due to his appetite being higher than the usual, they told us that there's nothing to worry about.

But in this battle, the Lord of monsters came to attack us, and yet, even when he is the same monster as them, Phalaris fought as the ally of humans.

That mysterious action pushed his fluffy popularity from before even more.

It looks like the Fire Church is currently filled up with people worshipping and trying to get a look at that cow.

“...”

The voice that directly resonated in me and guided me before becoming a God Hero.

That voice...if that was really the voice of that cow...if the power of the God Hero is truly a power given to us by the Gods...

“No way, right?” (Mirack)

I denied the conclusion that was led from putting two situations together.

“Mirack-chan? What is that ‘no way’ you speak of?” (Karen)

“Don’t ask, Karen! It is definitely impossible! I am just overthinking. That cow just coincidentally did an action that favoured us! Other possibilities are improbable!” (Mirack)

A monster is?! No way!

I don’t want to talk about this matter anymore.

Karen considered my feelings and didn’t pursue the topic.

We changed the conversation to something else.

“...But even with that God Hero power, you couldn’t defeat the Demon Lord.” (Karen)

That’s right.

As long as there’s no notice from the other nations about it, this will be the first battle between a God Hero and a Demon Lord.

Whether a God Hero is truly the trump card to overturn the Demon Lords. It was supposed to become an important cornerstone, but I was unable to defeat Michael.

The God Hero didn’t lose to the Demon Lord, but it wasn’t able to beat it either.

For us humanity, who are heavily inferior in numbers against them, this is

nothing short of saddening.

“...I don’t think it is such a bad thing.” (Mirack)

I couldn’t defeat Michael.

“The Demon Lords are our enemies...but, just as he said, I think that we both are great opponents.” (Mirack)

There’s types of opponents.

The type of opponent that the more you fight them, the more both of you regress; the ones that the more you fight, the more you grow.

In that sense, we can categorize them as bad and good opponents, but the truly troublesome ones are probably the good opponents rather than the bad ones.

That’s because you can simply defeat the bad opponents in your hatred.

But the good ones, the opponents that you connect with from things other than hatred, just how do you reach a good conclusion to it?

“I couldn’t tell anymore. How should I wrap up my battle with him? Is it fine with just one of us dying? I began to feel that just doing that would not be good.” (Mirack)

“Mirack-chan...” (Karen)

Michael and I; hero and Demon Lord; human and monster.

In this battle of supremacy, just in what way would it be desirable for our battle to conclude?

“In order to grasp that answer, I have to fight him once more.” (Mirack)

It is inexplicable, but for me, the unavoidable battle between Michael and I in the future was something that I was looking forward to on the same level as how I look forward to reuniting with Karen and the others.

“...Now that I think about it...” (Mirack)

Karen was about to leave the room, but I let out a final question.

“I didn’t see Haine this time. What happened? He is the type of guy that

would stick his head in other people's business even when you don't call him.”
(Mirack)

Maybe there was an even more precarious situation happening somewhere else and he headed there, so I was a bit worried.

When I asked this, Karen's expression visibly clouded and she muttered.

It was such a low mutter that I had to ask again, and I finally understood what she said.

“Missing? Along with the Light Founder?” (Mirack)

Chapter 277: Fantasy physics study

And so, in the end, I -Kuromiya Haine-should be the one closing this.

We are still in the Nameless Desert.

In order to bring back Mother Earth Mantle who it would be nice if she were caught inside the Black Hole.

Yorishiro, Shiva, and I were cooperating in destroying the Black Hole, but it isn't working at all.

It isn't even showing signs of going well.

The only weakness of my Black Hole is to eliminate the dark matter core inside of it with Light divine power. The Black Hole itself would be eliminated and might release Mantle who is probably caught inside of it.

However, no matter how many times we try, the light divine power gets caught in the high gravity of the Black Hole before reaching the core.

Even when we increased the power with the air lens of Shiva and my gravity lens, we couldn't break through the heavy gravity.

We tried many times with light divine power, but they all ended in failure.

Right now, we were splattered on the ground resting our mental and physical exhaustion that was accumulated from all the failures.

Adding that we are in the Nameless Desert, being crazy hot is making it even more exhausting.

There's no signs of anything going well and there was a sense of fruitless effort welling up inside of us already.

"How about we return...?" (Yorishiro)

The first one to voice out words of surrender was Yorishiro.

“As expected, we were underestimating the power of darkness. No matter what plan we have, it won’t work on the Black Hole. It is true that if the return of Mantle happens, we will be in an advantage, but if we get too adhered to that, it might end up being fatal.” (Yorishiro)

It is as Yorishiro says.

In the first place, the three people here are the incarnations of the Dark God Entropy, the Light Goddess Inflation, and the Wind God Quasar. In other words, a gathering of Gods.

“In the time we are doing this, who knows when the Demon Lords will begin moving. Let’s abandon the matter of Mantle and prepare for things in the range of what we can do.” (Yorishiro)

Her logic was so sound we couldn’t say a single word of objection.

If we could salvage Mantle here, we could make Sasae-chan into an Earth God Hero and it would increase a lot our fighting forces against the Demon Lords, but...that’s not the only problem.

It is rather Coacervate that’s a problem bigger than Mantle.

The possibilities of him cooperating are despairingly nonexistent. It is impossible to make all five into God Heroes in the current state, so it might not be necessary to force us in bringing back Mantle.

Let’s be reasonable here and think of a way to win with the cards we have at hand.

“...Aren’t you misunderstanding something?”

And in that moment, someone had cut in.

Within the group of three here, the one who spoke at last was Shiva.

“Misunderstanding? What is it we are misunderstanding? Now that it is impossible to bring back Mantle, we have to hurry and make Hyue-san and Mirack-san into God Heroes. I think convincing Nova will be difficult, but simply having the prospect of convincing makes it better than the other two. We should quickly—” (Yorishiro)

“That’s not what I am saying.” (Shiva)

Yorishiro pressed on, but Shiva stopped her.

“What I mean is that what we were lacking wasn’t output, but accuracy.”
(Shiva)

““?””

We didn’t understand what Shiva was saying.

“I will begin with the basics. Why is it that the light divine power is not reaching the core of the Black Hole?” (Shiva)

Because the gravity of the Black Hole is...

“The Black Hole pulls in everything no matter what it is, right? In that case, even if the light is caught in the gravity, its destination should be the center of the Black Hole. In other words, at the super-compressed dark matter core. In that case, even if we did nothing, the caught light would reach the dark matter, isn’t it?” (Shiva)

“Yeah but...” (Haine)

“You said that the light would be infinitely caught inside the Schwarzschild radius, right?” (Shiva)

“Well, that’s right.” (Haine)

Sorry, but I actually don’t understand it well myself either.

Don’t you think the words Schwarzschild radius sound cool though?

“When you approach a certain distance to the Black Hole, no matter what power you have, you won’t be able to return. That radius is one that you can’t return from. If you make one step into it, no matter what it is, you won’t be able to escape from the Black Hole —even light.” (Shiva)

Oh, I am impressed you know so much about it, Shiva-san.

By the way, Yorishiro had already given up in understanding.

“And so, returning to the previous topic, we have shot light divine power in order to destroy the core of the Black Hole. But we didn’t succeed once. We were thinking that the reason was because the light divine power lacked in strength to break through the gravity, but is that really the case?” (Shiva)

“Then, what is the reason for the failures?” (Haine)

“Until now, we were aimlessly shooting light to the Black Hole. We didn’t try to accurately shoot at the core. Isn’t that the problem?” (Shiva)

“ ... ”

He does have a point.

The Black Hole looks like a pitch-black sphere, but that’s because it doesn’t let even the reflection of light return which makes it look that way.

The super-compressed dark matter core can be said to be the only thing with substance inside the Black Hole, but because it is super-compressed, it is a thousand times smaller than a grain of sand.

If you want to aim at it and hit it, you would need God-like precision.

But Yorishiro and I didn’t take it as an important point to stress.

We had the positive thinking that since the Black Hole is absorbing everything, even if we don’t seriously aim at it, it should go to its target on its own.

Without noticing that we were contradicting ourselves because of the light being caught by the Schwarzschild radius.

“Listen well. Even with that, the strongest element against darkness is light.” (Shiva)

Shiva’s professor-like lecture continues.

“The one with the highest possibility of escaping from the Black Hole is light as well. The speed of light is the fastest and has no mass after all. It is probably that the light, which has been shot blindly into the Black Hole, would graze the core and pass by it, but the gravity catches it and pulls it back.” (Shiva)

Yeah yeah (I don’t really understand).

“If it were a normal substance, it would be pulled by the gravity just like that and fall into the center of the Black Hole. But light is different. Light is good against darkness, but has no mass and flies at high speed, so it goes against the gravity and can proceed through the contrary direction of the gravity. Even if it enters the Schwarzschild radius.” (Shiva)

Yup yup yup (still don't understand).

“But everything that enters the Schwarzschild radius can't get out, which is absolute. As a result, what happens is that ‘the power trying to escape’ and the ‘power trying to pull in’; both the high speed and high gravity balance each other out and stop into a boundary line between possible to escape and impossible to. That's...” (Shiva)

The Schwarzschild radius...

This radius is basically the satellite orbit of the Black Hole. The light that gets caught in a battle of speed and gravity ends up being unable to move from that place.

“I have made a wordy talk there, but what I mean is that in order to destroy the Black Hole, we have to aim the light divine power accurately and hit the core.” (Shiva)

That's why Shiva said that rather than output, we need is accuracy.

“Understood.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro who had given up on listening has revived!

“Just means that instead of blindly shooting, we should aim this time, right? Why did you make such a long talk just to say that? Is it that men think they will look cooler by sounding intelligent?” (Yorishiro)

“You woman also immediately shutted out the talk you yourself had no interest in! As I thought, all women aside from Juo are idiots!” (Shiva)

Them not getting along is a default.

But even if Shiva's hypothesis is correct, it is not as if things have been easily resolved now.

The destruction of the Black Hole is still a treacherous path.

Because as I said before, the core of the Black Hole is thousands of times smaller than a grain of sand.

But its mass is several hundreds of times that of a mountain though.

Accurately hitting such a small target is close to impossible.

“I will do something about it.” (Shiva)

Shiva jumps in.

“I am the Wind God Quasar, but I am also the human that has the position of Wind Founder. I have confidence in my aim as a dual wind gun user.” (Shiva)

“Shiva...” (Haine)

“Of course, in terms of long range sniping, I am no match for Hyue, but... there’s still worth in trying. I will fix the direction of the light beam of Yorishiro with the air lens. Haine.” (Shiva)

“Yes?” (Haine)

“I will have you take the role of feeling the position of the core as a darkness user. Let’s try struggling a bit more before giving up.” (Shiva)

Shiva stands up as if saying break time is over.

I also follow and stand up. Yorishiro, as if saying ‘good grief’, lifts up her big butt from the sand.

After many failed attempts and hypothesis, we were approaching the destruction of the Black Hole.

But even with that, it would still require hundreds of test shots more in order to pierce through the core of the Black Hole.

In other words, what I am trying to say is that it will still take more time to save Mantle.